



CITY OF LEXINGTON, VA 2008



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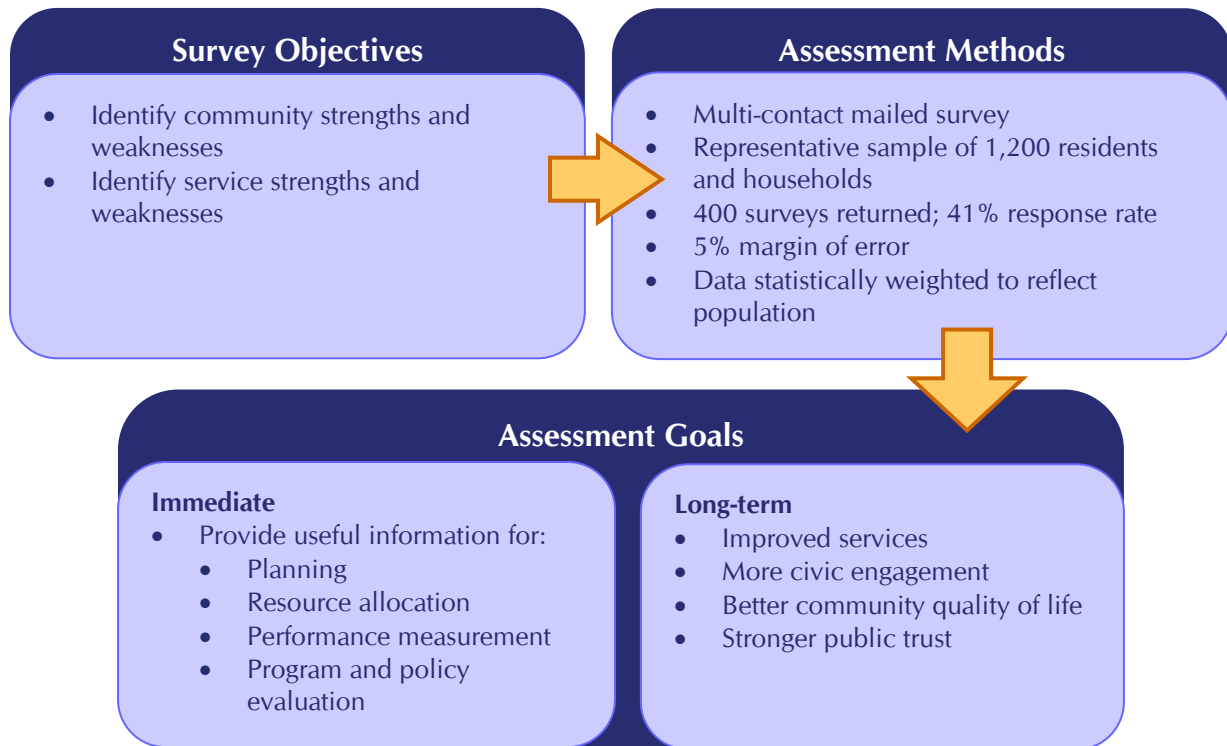
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SURVEY BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™

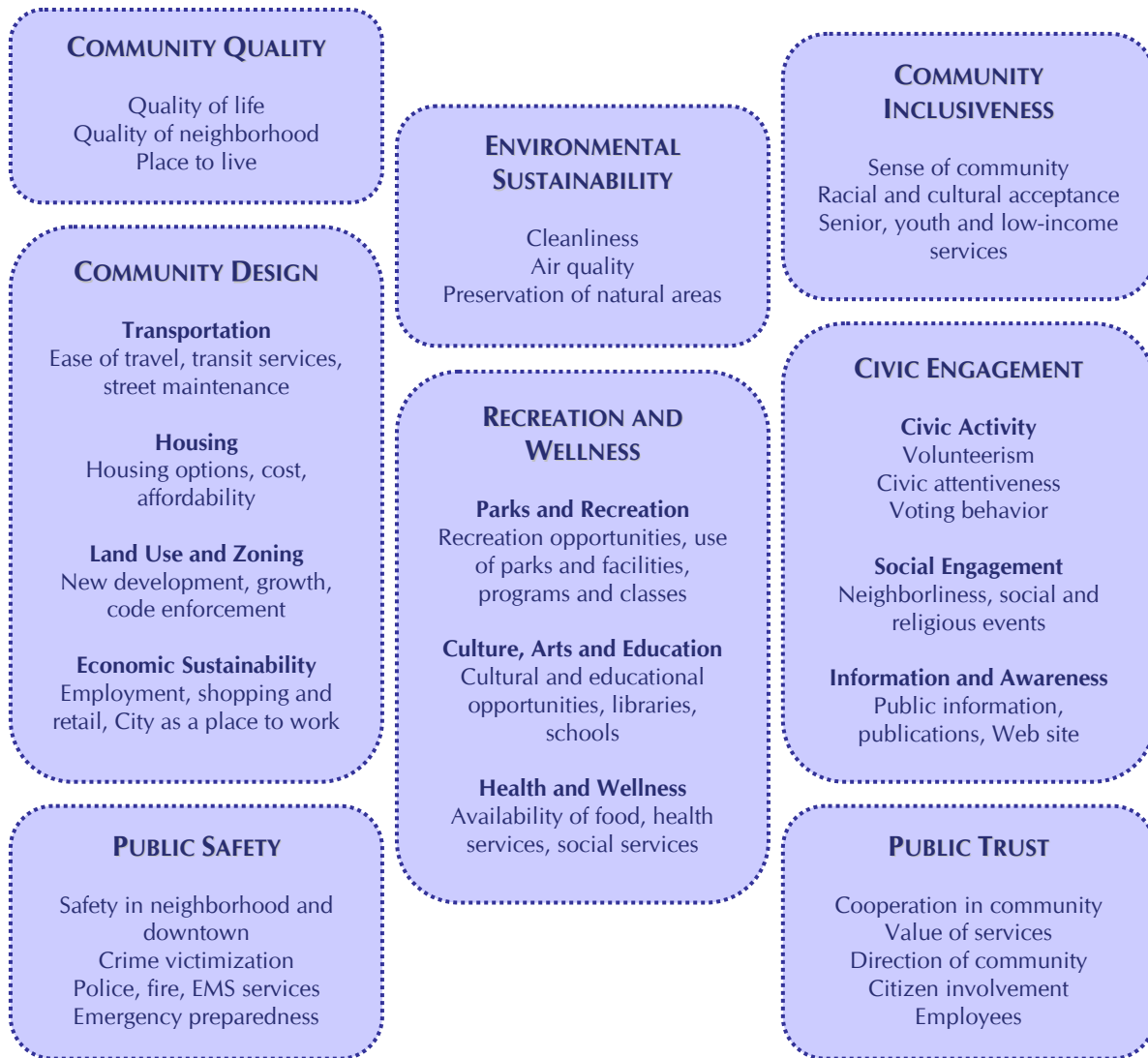
The National Citizen Survey™ (The NCS) is a collaborative effort between National Research Center, Inc. (NRC) and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). The NCS was developed by NRC to provide a statistically valid survey of resident opinions about community and services provided by local government. The survey results may be used by staff, elected officials and other stakeholders for community planning and resource allocation, program improvement and policy making.

FIGURE 1: THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™ METHODS AND GOALS



The NCS focuses on a series of community characteristics and local government services, as well as issues of public trust. Resident behaviors related to civic engagement in the community also were measured in the survey.

FIGURE 2: THE NATIONAL CITIZEN SURVEY™ FOCUS AREAS



The survey and its administration are standardized to assure high quality research methods and directly comparable results across The National Citizen Survey™ jurisdictions. Participating households are selected at random and the household member who responds is selected without bias. Multiple mailings give each household more than one chance to participate with self-addressed and postage-paid envelopes. Results are statistically weighted to reflect the proper demographic composition of the entire community. A total of 400 completed surveys were obtained, providing an overall response rate of 41%. Typically, response rates obtained on citizen surveys range from 25% to 40%.

The National Citizen Survey™ customized for the City of Lexington was developed in close cooperation with local jurisdiction staff. Lexington staff selected items from a menu of questions about services and community problems and provided the appropriate letterhead and signatures for mailings.

UNDERSTANDING THE RESULTS

As shown in Figure 2, this report is based around respondents' reports about eight larger categories: community quality, community design, public safety, environmental sustainability, recreation and wellness, community inclusiveness, civic engagement and public trust. Each section begins with residents' ratings of community characteristics and is followed by residents' ratings of service quality. For all evaluative questions, the percent of residents rating the service or community feature as "excellent" or "good" is presented. To see the full set of responses for each question on the survey, please see Appendix A: Complete Survey Frequencies.

Margin of Error

It is customary to describe the precision of estimates made from surveys by a "level of confidence" (or margin of error). The 95% confidence interval quantifies the sampling error or precision of the estimates made from the survey results. A 95% confidence interval can be calculated for any question and indicates that for every 100 random samples of this many residents, the population response to that question would be within the stated interval 95 times. The 95% confidence level for the City of Lexington survey is generally no greater than plus or minus five percentage points around any given percent reported for the entire sample (400 completed surveys).

Comparing Survey Results

Certain kinds of services tend to be thought better of by residents in many communities across the country. For example, public safety services tend to be received better than transportation services by residents of most American communities. Where possible, the better comparison is not from one service to another in the City of Lexington, but from City of Lexington services to services like them provided by other jurisdictions.

Benchmark Comparisons

NRC's database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in citizen surveys from approximately 500 jurisdictions whose residents evaluated local government services and gave their opinion about the quality of community life. The City of Lexington chose to have comparisons made to the entire database. A benchmark comparison (the average rating from all the comparison jurisdictions where a similar question was asked) has been provided when a similar question on the City of Lexington Survey was included in NRC's database and there were at least five jurisdictions in which the question was asked. For most questions compared to the entire dataset, there were more than 100 jurisdictions included in the benchmark comparison.

Where comparisons were available, the City of Lexington results were noted as being "above" the benchmark, "below" the benchmark or "similar to" the benchmark. This evaluation of "above," "below" or "similar to" comes from a statistical comparison of the City of Lexington's rating to the benchmark.

"Don't Know" Responses and Rounding

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer "don't know." The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in Appendix A. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

For some questions, respondents were permitted to select more than one answer. When the total exceeds 100% in a table for a multiple response question, it is because some respondents did select

more than one response. When a table for a question that only permitted a single response does not total to exactly 100%, it is due to the customary practice of percentages being rounded to the nearest whole number.

For more information on understanding The NCS report, please see Appendix B: Survey Methodology.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report of the City of Lexington survey provides the opinions of a representative sample of residents about community quality of life, service delivery, civic participation and unique issues of local interest. A periodic sounding of resident opinion offers staff, elected officials and other stakeholders an opportunity to identify challenges and to plan for and evaluate improvements and to sustain services and amenities for long-term success.

Most residents experience a good quality of life in the City of Lexington and believe the City is a good place to live. The overall quality of life in the City of Lexington was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 81% of respondents. A majority report they plan on staying in the City of Lexington for the next five years.

A variety of characteristics of the community were evaluated by those participating in the study. The four receiving the most favorable ratings were cleanliness of Lexington, overall appearance of Lexington, opportunities to volunteer, overall image of reputation of Lexington. The four characteristics receiving the least positive ratings were employment opportunities, shopping opportunities, availability of affordable quality child care, and availability of affordable quality housing.

All of the community characteristics rated were able to be compared to the benchmark database. Of the 30 characteristics for which comparisons were available, nine were above the benchmark comparison, six were similar to the benchmark comparison and 15 were below.

Residents in the City of Lexington were somewhat civically engaged. While only 34% had attended a meeting of local elected public officials or other local public meeting in the previous 12 months, 95% had provided help to a friend or neighbor. A majority had volunteered their time to some group or activity in the City of Lexington.

In general, survey respondents demonstrated trust in local government. A majority rated the overall direction being taken by the City of Lexington as “good” or “excellent.” This was similar to the benchmark. Those residents who had interacted with an employee of the City of Lexington in the previous 12 months gave high marks to those employees. Nearly all rated their overall impression as excellent or good.

On average, residents gave somewhat favorable ratings to many local government services. All of the City services rated were able to be compared to the benchmark database. Of the 36 services for which comparisons were available, 10 were above the benchmark comparison, 11 were similar to the benchmark comparison and 15 were below.

A Key Driver Analysis was conducted for the City of Lexington which examined the relationships between ratings of each service and ratings of the City of Lexington's services overall. Those key driver services that correlated most strongly with residents' perceptions about overall City service quality have been identified. By targeting improvements in key services, the City of Lexington can focus on the services that have the greatest likelihood of influencing residents' opinions about overall service quality. Services found to be influential in ratings of overall service quality from the Key Driver Analysis were:

- Police services
- City parks

Of these services, that deserving the most attention may be that which was below the benchmark comparisons: police services.

COMMUNITY RATINGS

OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY

Overall quality of community life may be the single best indicator of success in providing the natural ambience, services and amenities that make for an attractive community. The National Citizen Survey™ contained many questions related to quality of community life in the City of Lexington – not only direct questions about quality of life overall and in neighborhoods, but questions to measure residents' commitment to the City of Lexington. Residents were asked whether they planned to move soon or if they would recommend the City of Lexington to others. Intentions to stay and willingness to make recommendations provide evidence that the City of Lexington offers services and amenities that work.

Most of the City of Lexington's residents gave favorable ratings to their neighborhoods and the community as a place to live. Further, a majority reported they would recommend the community to others and plan to stay for the next five years.

FIGURE 3: RATINGS OF OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY

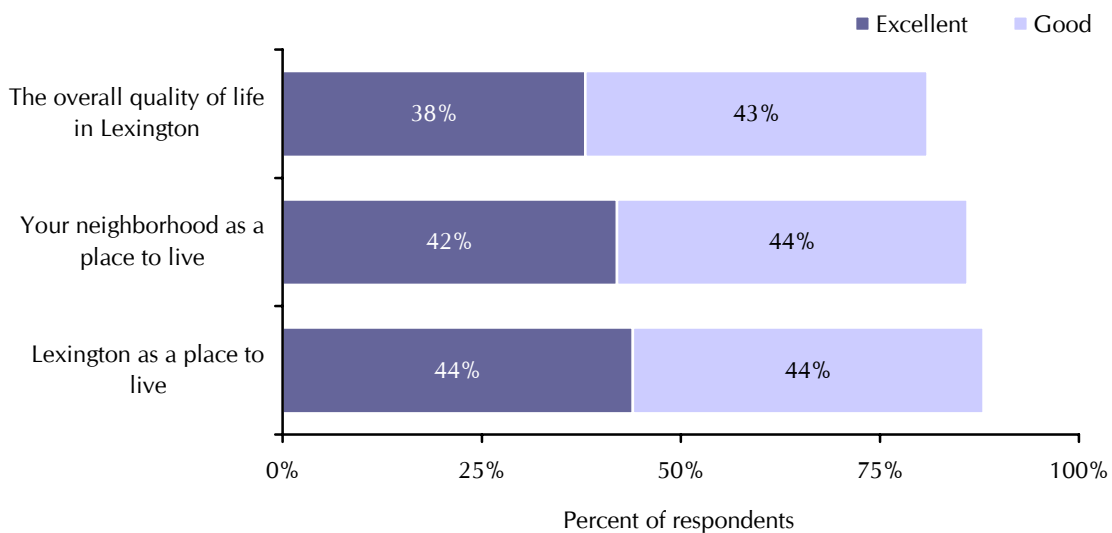


FIGURE 4: LIKELIHOOD OF REMAINING IN COMMUNITY AND RECOMMENDING COMMUNITY

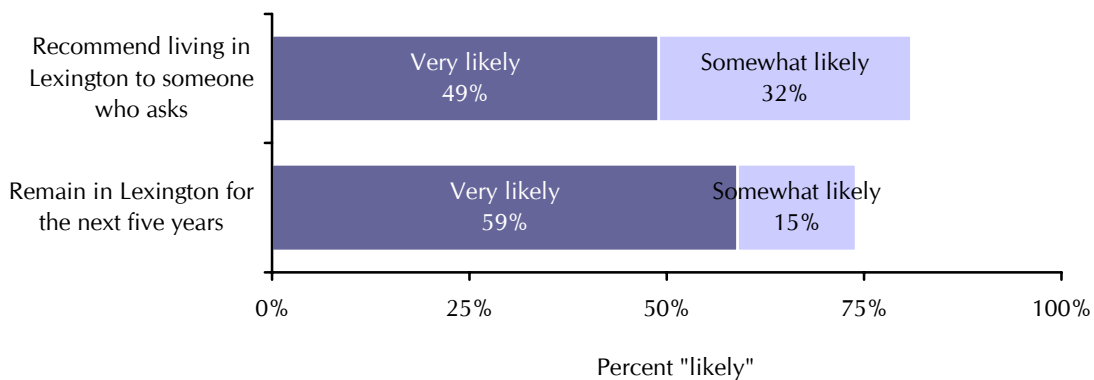


FIGURE 5: OVERALL COMMUNITY QUALITY BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Overall quality of life in Lexington	Similar
Your neighborhood as place to live	Similar
Lexington as a place to live	Similar
Remain in Lexington for the next five years	Below
Recommend living in Lexington to someone who asks	Below

COMMUNITY DESIGN

Transportation

The ability to move easily throughout a community can greatly affect the quality of life of residents by diminishing time wasted in traffic congestion and by providing opportunities to travel quickly and safely by modes other than the automobile. High quality options for resident mobility not only require local government to remove barriers to flow but they require government programs and policies that create quality opportunities for all modes of travel.

Residents responding to the survey were given a list of five aspects of mobility to rate on a scale of “excellent,” “good,” “fair” and “poor.” Ease of walking was given the most positive rating, followed by availability of paths and walking trails.

FIGURE 6: RATINGS OF TRANSPORTATION IN COMMUNITY

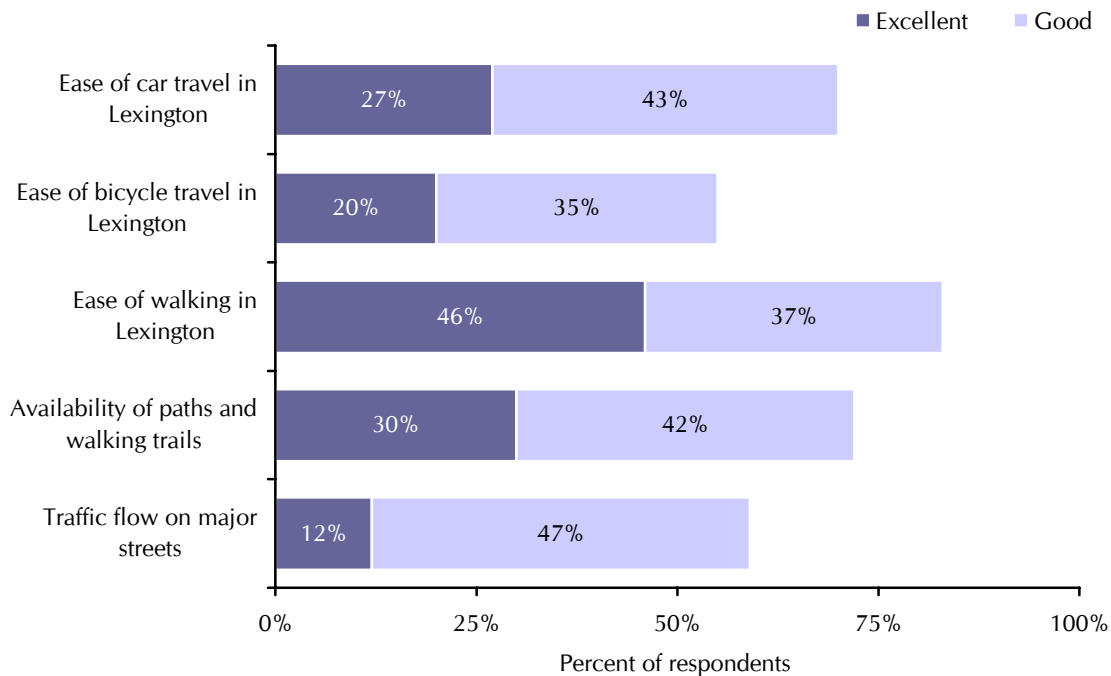


FIGURE 7: COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Ease of car travel in Lexington	Above
Ease of walking in Lexington	Above
Ease of bicycle travel in Lexington	Similar
Availability of paths and walking trails	Above
Traffic flow on major streets	Similar

Seven transportation services were rated in Lexington. As compared to most communities across America, ratings tended to be favorable. Six were above the benchmark, and one was below the benchmark.

FIGURE 8: RATINGS OF TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING SERVICES

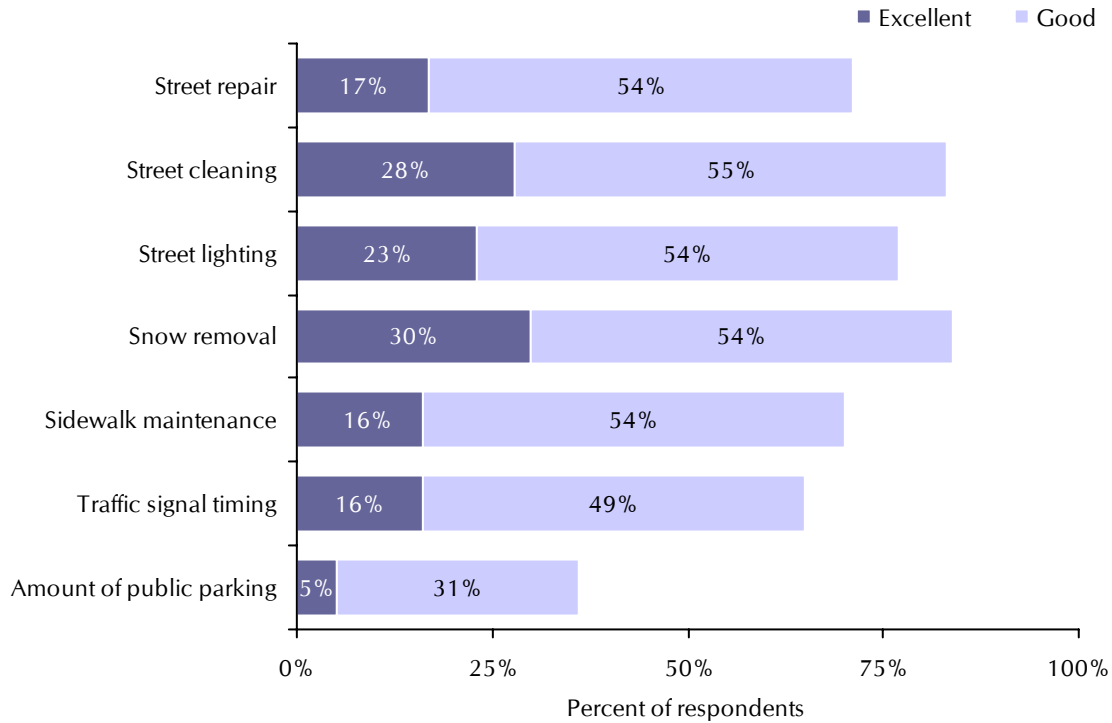
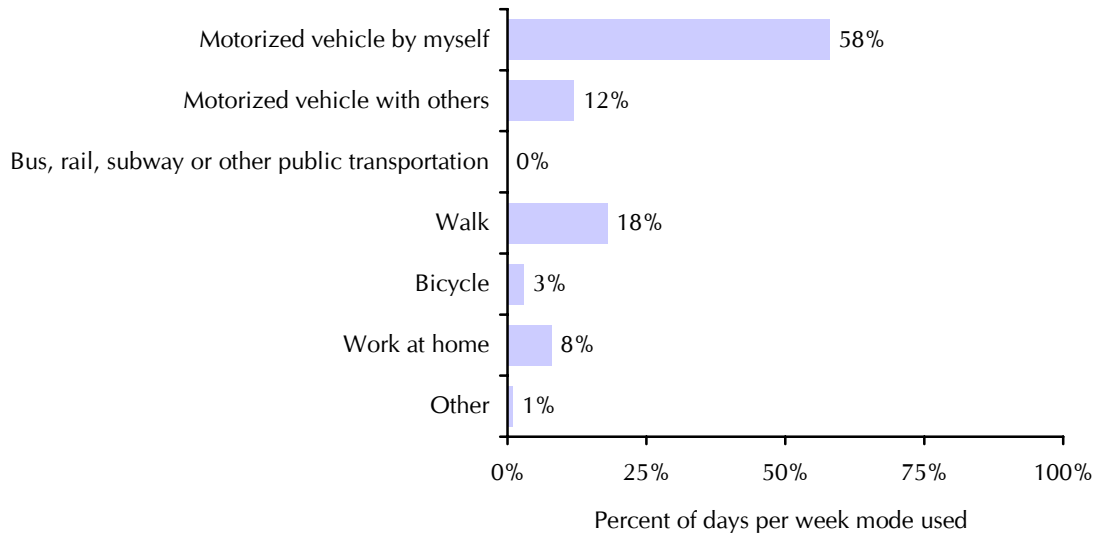


FIGURE 9: TRANSPORTATION AND PARKING SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Street repair /maintenance	Above
Street cleaning	Above
Street lighting	Above
Snow removal	Above
Sidewalk maintenance	Above
Light timing	Above
Amount of public parking	Below

By measuring choice of travel mode over time, communities can monitor their success in providing attractive alternatives to the traditional mode of travel, the single-occupied automobile. When asked how they typically traveled to work, single-occupancy (SOV) travel was the overwhelming mode of use. However, 18% of work commute trips were made by foot and 3% by bicycle.

FIGURE 10: MODE OF TRAVEL USED FOR WORK COMMUTE



Housing

Housing variety and affordability are not luxuries for any community. When there are too few options for housing style and affordability, the characteristics of a community tilt heavily to a homogeneous palette, often of well-off residents. While this may seem attractive to a community, the absence of affordable townhomes, condominiums, mobile homes, single family detached homes and apartments means that in addition to losing the vibrancy of diverse thoughts and lifestyles, the community loses the service workers that sustain all communities – police officers, school teachers, house painters and electricians. These workers must live elsewhere and commute in at great personal cost and to the detriment of traffic flow and air quality. Furthermore lower income residents who can sustain in a community with mostly high cost housing pay so much of their income to rent or mortgage that little remains to bolster their own quality of life or local business.

The survey of the City of Lexington residents asked respondents to reflect on the availability of affordable housing as well as the variety of housing options. The availability of affordable housing was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 27% of respondents, while the variety of housing options was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 33% of respondents. The rating of perceived affordable housing availability was worse in the City of Lexington than the ratings, on average, in comparison jurisdictions.

FIGURE 11: RATINGS OF HOUSING IN COMMUNITY

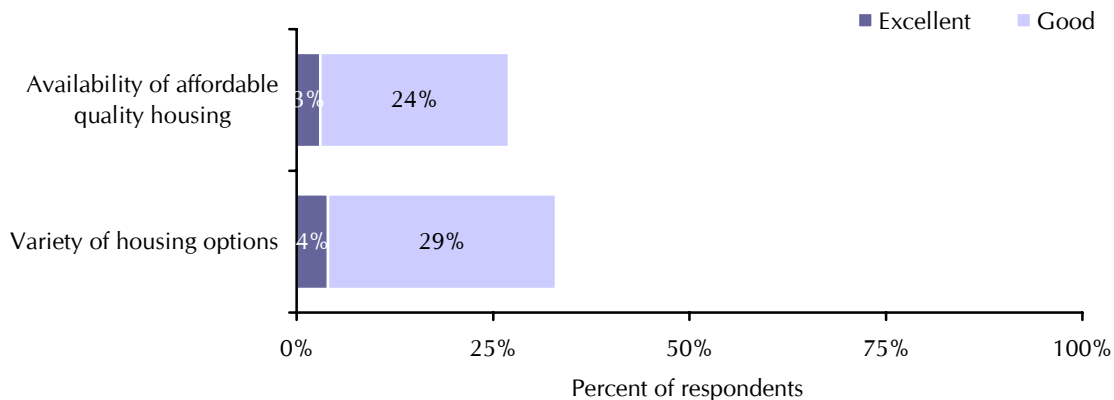
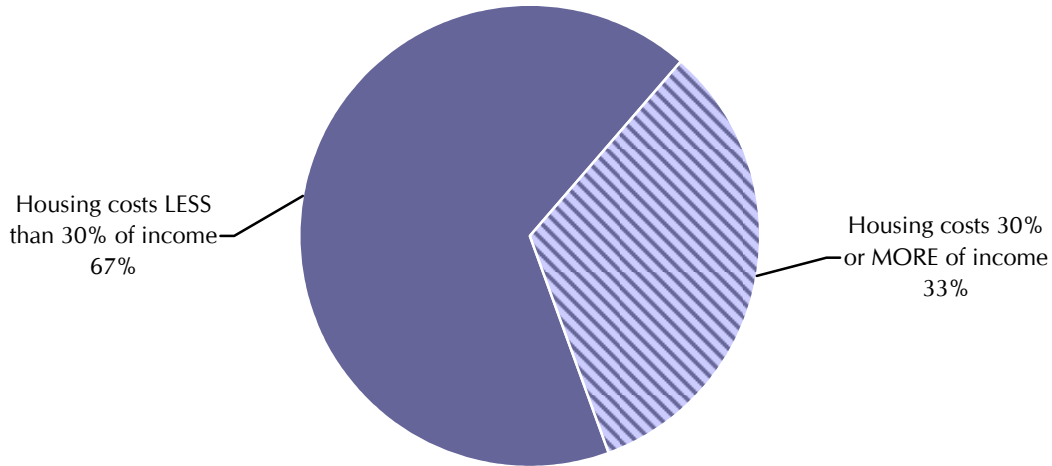


FIGURE 12: HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Availability of affordable quality housing	Below
Variety of housing options	Below

To augment the perceptions of affordable housing in Lexington, the cost of housing as reported in the survey was compared to residents' reported monthly income to create a rough estimate of the proportion of residents of the City of Lexington experiencing housing cost stress. About one third of survey participants were found to pay housing costs of more than 30% of their monthly household income.

FIGURE 13: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHOSE HOUSING COSTS ARE "AFFORDABLE"



Land Use and Zoning

Community development contributes to a feeling among residents and even visitors of the attention given to the speed of growth, the location of residences and businesses, the kind of housing that is appropriate for the community and the ease of access to commerce, green space and residences. Even the community's overall appearance often is attributed to the planning and enforcement functions of the local jurisdiction. Residents will appreciate an attractive, well-planned community. The NCS questionnaire asked residents to evaluate the quality of new development, the appearance of the City of Lexington and the speed of population growth. Problems with the appearance of property were rated, and the quality of land use planning, zoning and code enforcement services were evaluated.

The overall quality of new development in the City of Lexington was rated as "excellent" by 8% of respondents and as "good" by an additional 40%. The overall appearance of Lexington was rated as "excellent" or "good" by 85% of respondents and was higher than the benchmark. When rating to what extent run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles were a problem in the City of Lexington, 25% thought they were a "major" or "moderate" problem.

FIGURE 14: RATINGS OF THE COMMUNITY'S "BUILT ENVIRONMENT"

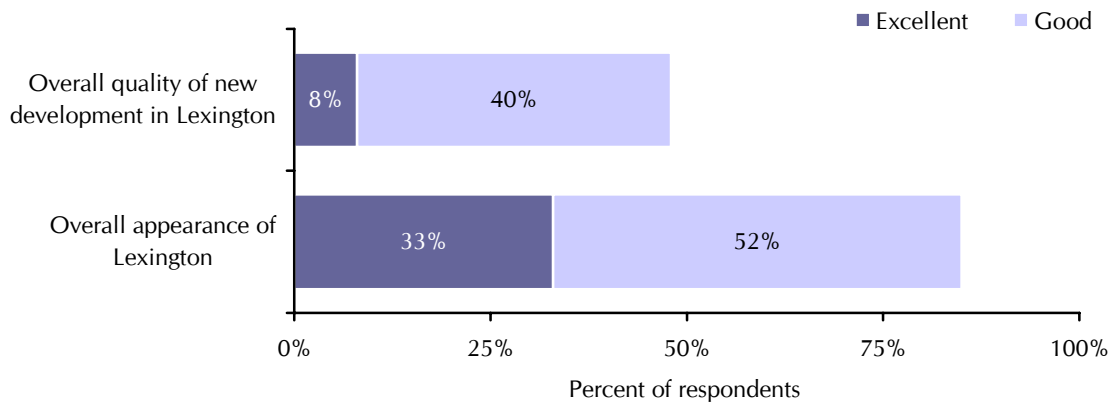


FIGURE 15: BUILT ENVIRONMENT BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Quality of new development in city	Below
Overall appearance of Lexington	Above

FIGURE 16: RATINGS OF POPULATION GROWTH

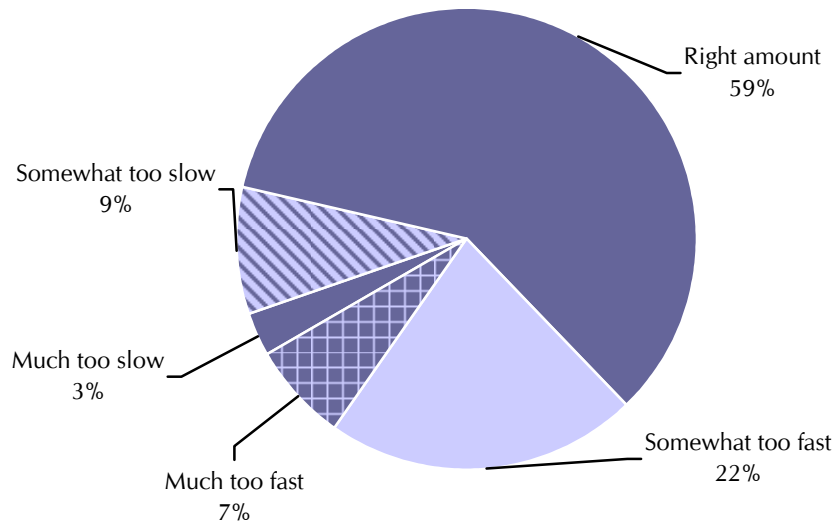


FIGURE 17: RATINGS OF NUISANCE PROBLEMS

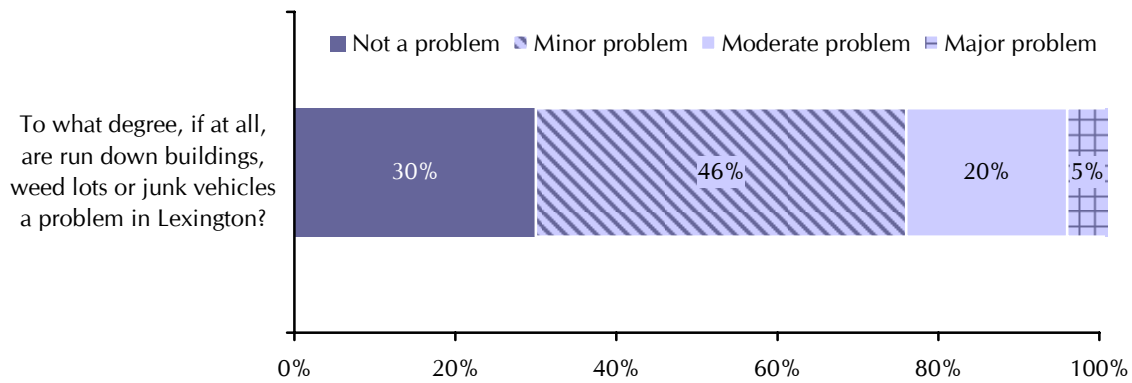


FIGURE 18: RATINGS OF PLANNING AND COMMUNITY CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES

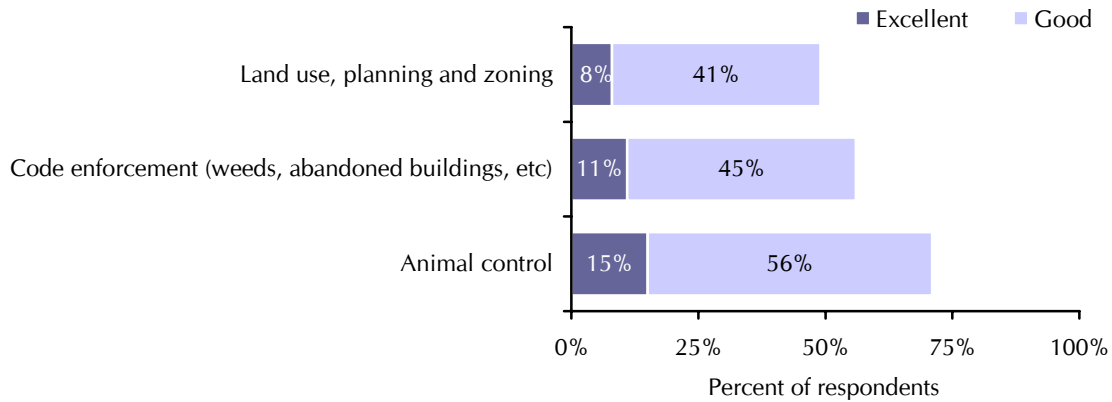


FIGURE 19: PLANNING AND COMMUNITY CODE ENFORCEMENT SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Land use, planning and zoning	Similar
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	Similar
Animal control	Similar

ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY

The health of the economy may color how residents perceive their environment and all the services that local government delivers. In particular, a strong or weak local economy will shape what residents think about job and shopping opportunities. Just as residents have an idea about the speed of local population growth, they have a sense of how fast job and shopping opportunities are growing.

Survey respondents were asked to rate a number of community features related to economic opportunity and growth. The most positively rated features were Lexington as a place to work and the overall quality of business and service establishments. Receiving the lowest rating was employment opportunities.

FIGURE 20: RATINGS OF ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND OPPORTUNITIES

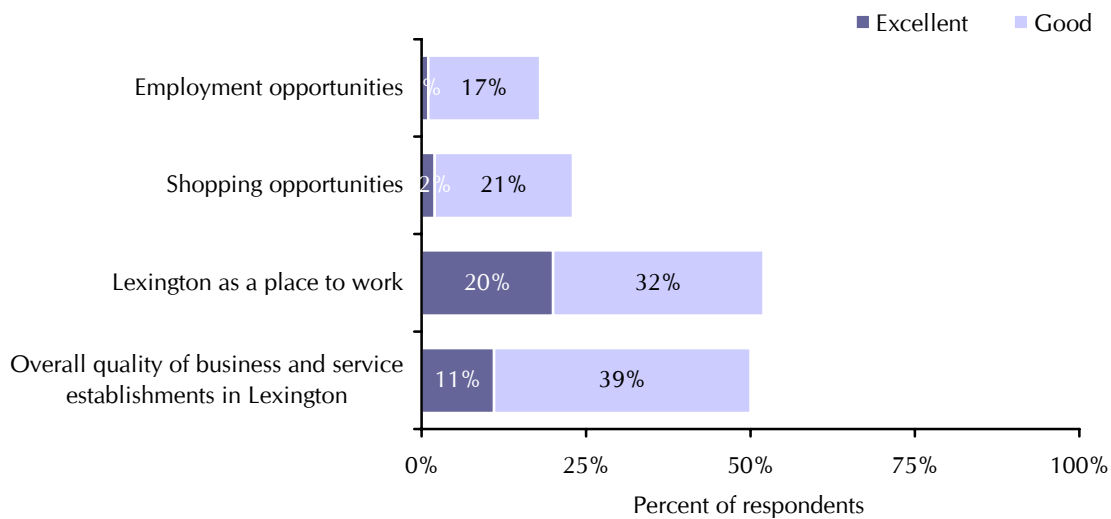


FIGURE 21: ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Employment opportunities	Below
Shopping opportunities	Below
Place to work	Below
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Lexington	Below

When asked to evaluate the rate of job growth in Lexington, 17% responded that it was the “right amount,” while 32% reported the “right amount” of retail growth was occurring in Lexington.

FIGURE 22: RATINGS OF RETAIL AND JOB GROWTH

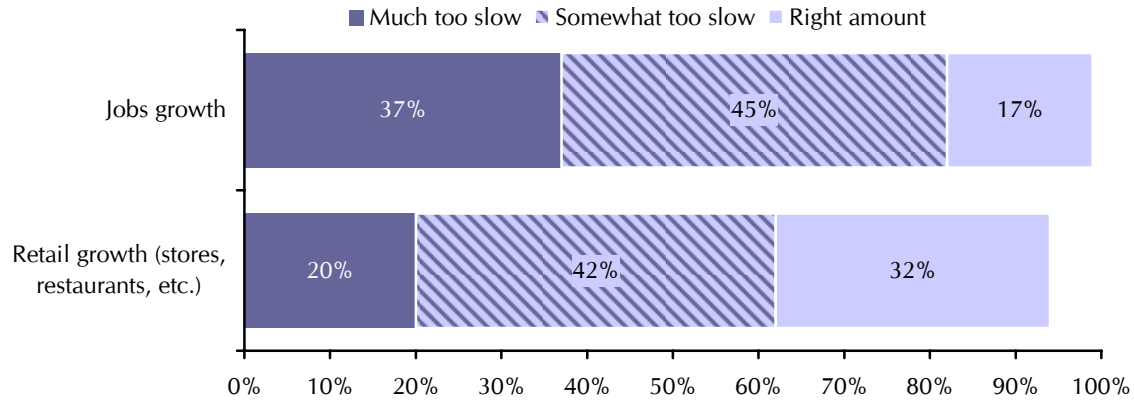


FIGURE 23: RATINGS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

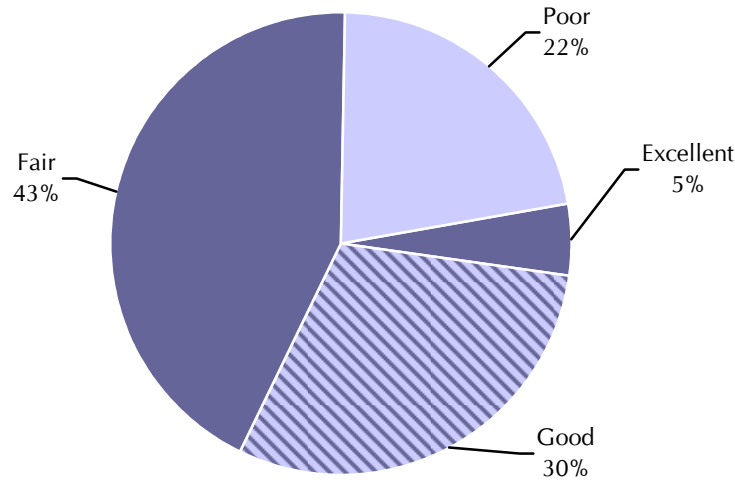
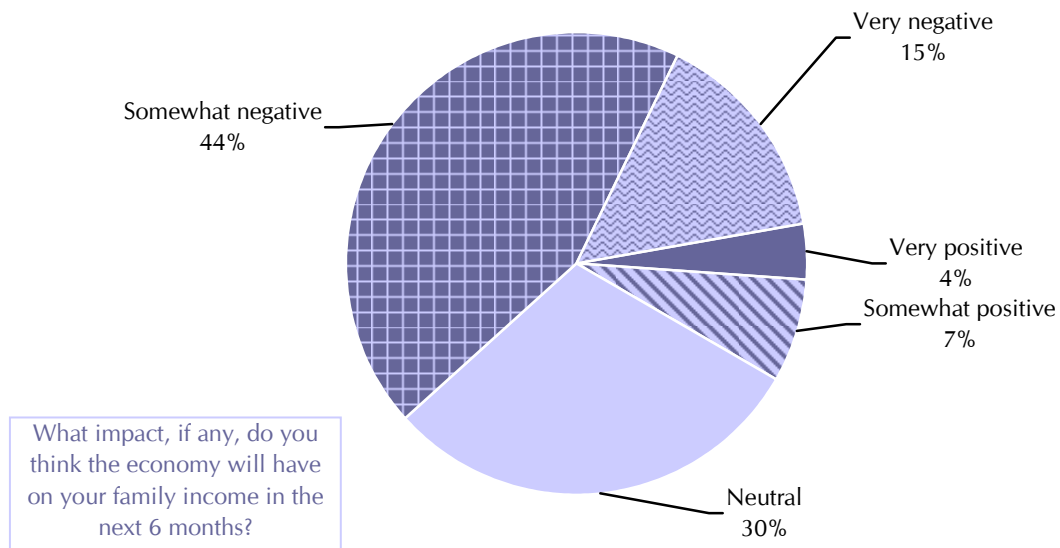


FIGURE 24: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES BENCHMARKS

Comparison to benchmark	
Economic development	Below

Residents were asked to reflect on their economic prospects in the near term. Eleven percent of the City of Lexington residents expected that the coming six months would have a “somewhat” or “very” positive impact on their family, while 59% felt that the economic future would be “somewhat” or “very” negative.

FIGURE 25: RATINGS OF PERSONAL ECONOMIC FUTURE



PUBLIC SAFETY

Safety from violent or property crimes creates the cornerstone of an attractive community. No one wants to live in fear of crime, fire or natural hazards, and communities in which residents feel protected or unthreatened are communities that are more likely to show growth in population, commerce and property value.

Residents were asked to rate their feelings of safety from violent crimes, property crimes, fire and environmental dangers and to evaluate the local agencies whose main charge is to provide protection from these dangers. Most gave positive ratings of safety in the City Lexington. About 94% percent of those completing the questionnaire said they felt “very” or “somewhat” safe from violent crimes and 88% felt “very” or “somewhat” safe from environmental hazards. Daytime sense of safety was better than nighttime safety.

FIGURE 26: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL PUBLIC SAFETY

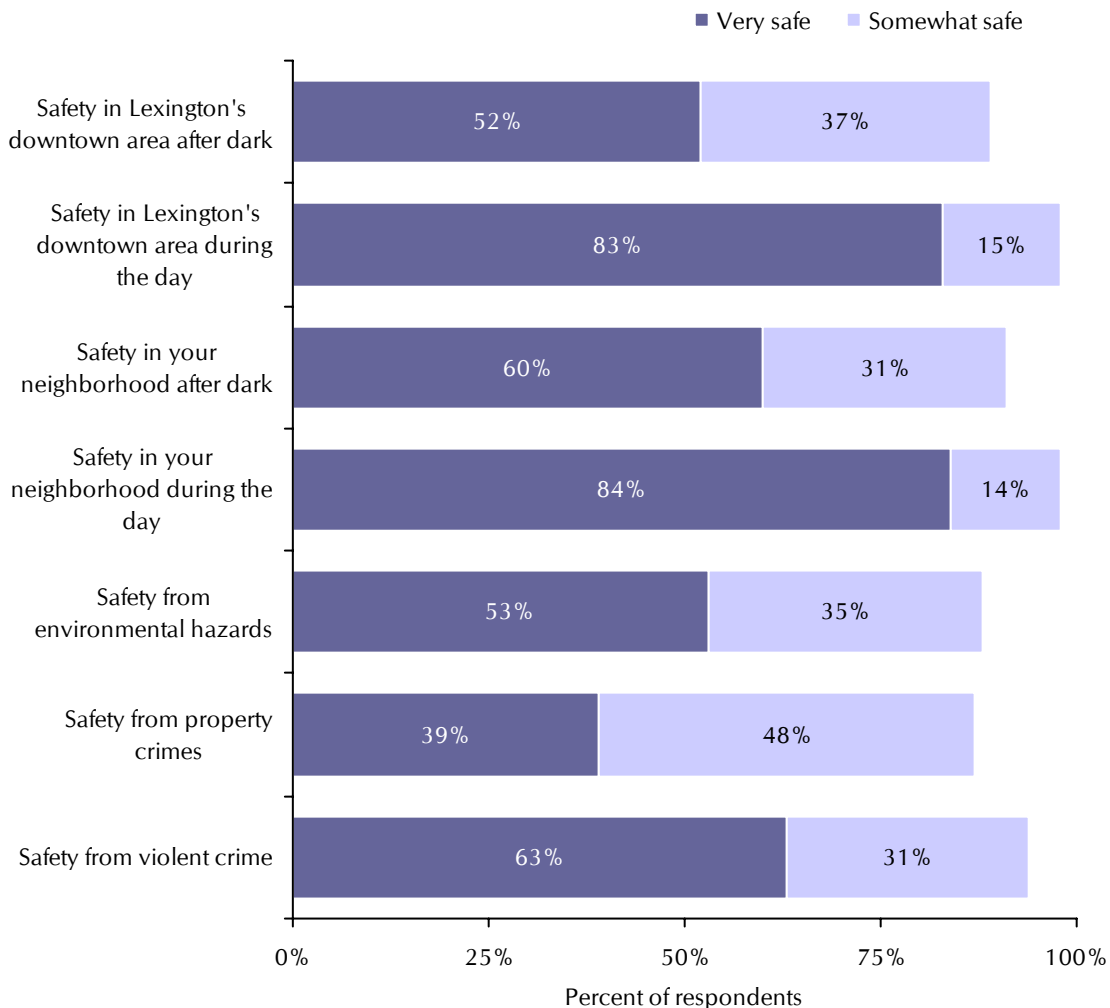
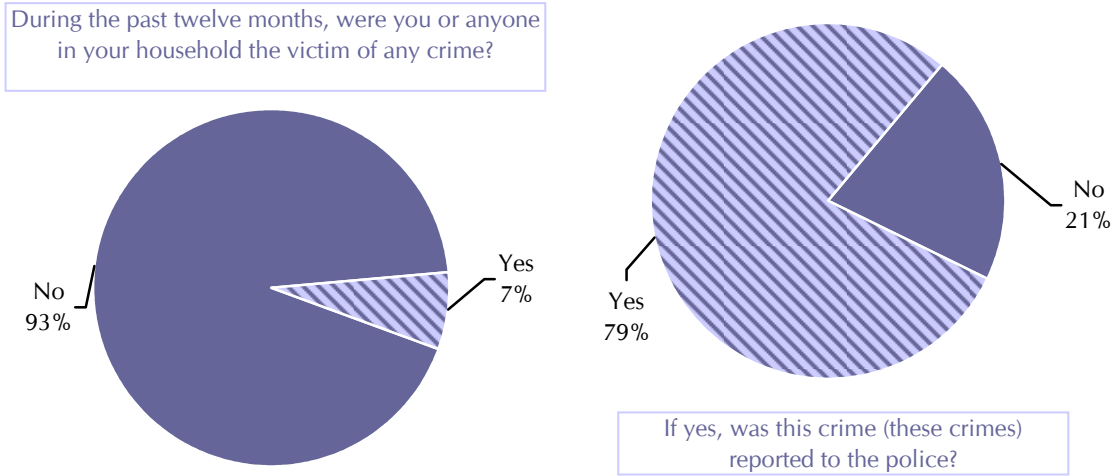


FIGURE 27: COMMUNITY AND PERSONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Safety in your neighborhood during the day	Above
Safety in your neighborhood after dark	Above
Safety in Lexington's downtown area during the day	Above
Safety in Lexington's downtown area after dark	Above
Safety from violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	Above
Safety from property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	Above
Toxic waste or other environmental hazard(s)	Above

As assessed by the survey, 7% of respondents reported that someone in the household had been the victim of one or more crimes in the past year. Of those who had been the victim of a crime, 79% had reported it to police.

FIGURE 28: CRIME VICTIMIZATION AND REPORTING



Residents rated eight City public safety services; of these, one was rated above the benchmark comparison, two were rated similar to the benchmark comparison and five were rated below the benchmark comparison. Fire services and Ambulance or emergency medical services received the highest ratings, while emergency preparedness and traffic enforcement received the lowest ratings.

FIGURE 29: RATINGS OF PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES

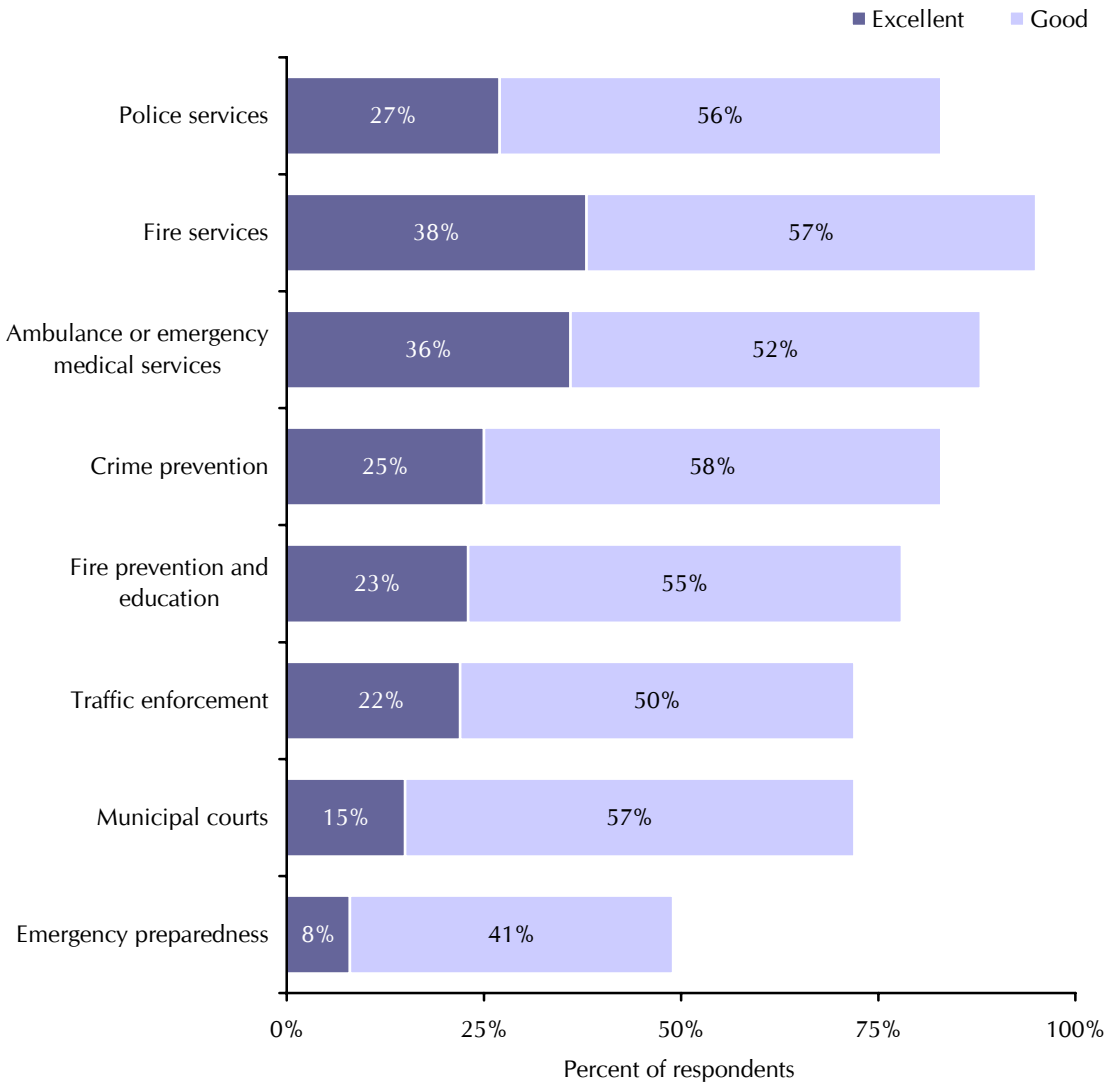


FIGURE 30: PUBLIC SAFETY SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Police services	Below
Fire services	Below
EMS/ambulance	Below
Crime prevention	Above
Fire prevention and education	Below
Traffic enforcement	Similar
Courts	Similar
Emergency preparedness	Below

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Residents value the aesthetic qualities of their hometowns and appreciate features such as overall cleanliness and landscaping. In addition, the appearance and smell or taste of the air and water do not go unnoticed. These days, increasing attention is paid to proper treatment of the environment. At the same time that they are attending to community appearance and cleanliness, cities, counties, states and the nation are going “Green”. These strengthening environmental concerns extend to trash haul, recycling, sewer services, the delivery of power and water and preservation of open spaces. Treatment of the environment affects air and water quality and, generally, how habitable and inviting a place appears

Residents of the City of Lexington were asked to evaluate their local environment and the services provided to ensure its quality. The overall quality of the natural environment was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 83% of survey respondents. Cleanliness of Lexington received the highest rating, and it was above the benchmark.

FIGURE 31: RATINGS OF THE COMMUNITY'S NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

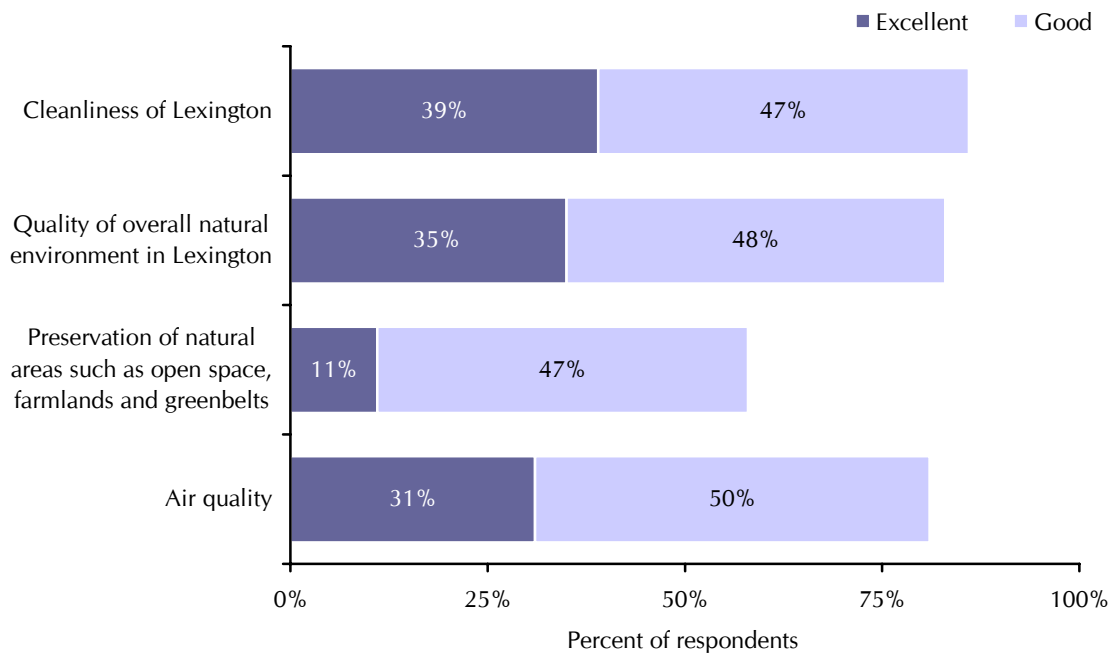


FIGURE 32: COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Cleanliness of Lexington	Above
Quality of overall natural environment in Lexington	Above
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	Below
Air quality	Above

Of the seven utility services rated by those completing the questionnaire, three were higher than the benchmark comparison, three were similar and one was below the benchmark comparison.

FIGURE 33: RATINGS OF UTILITY SERVICES

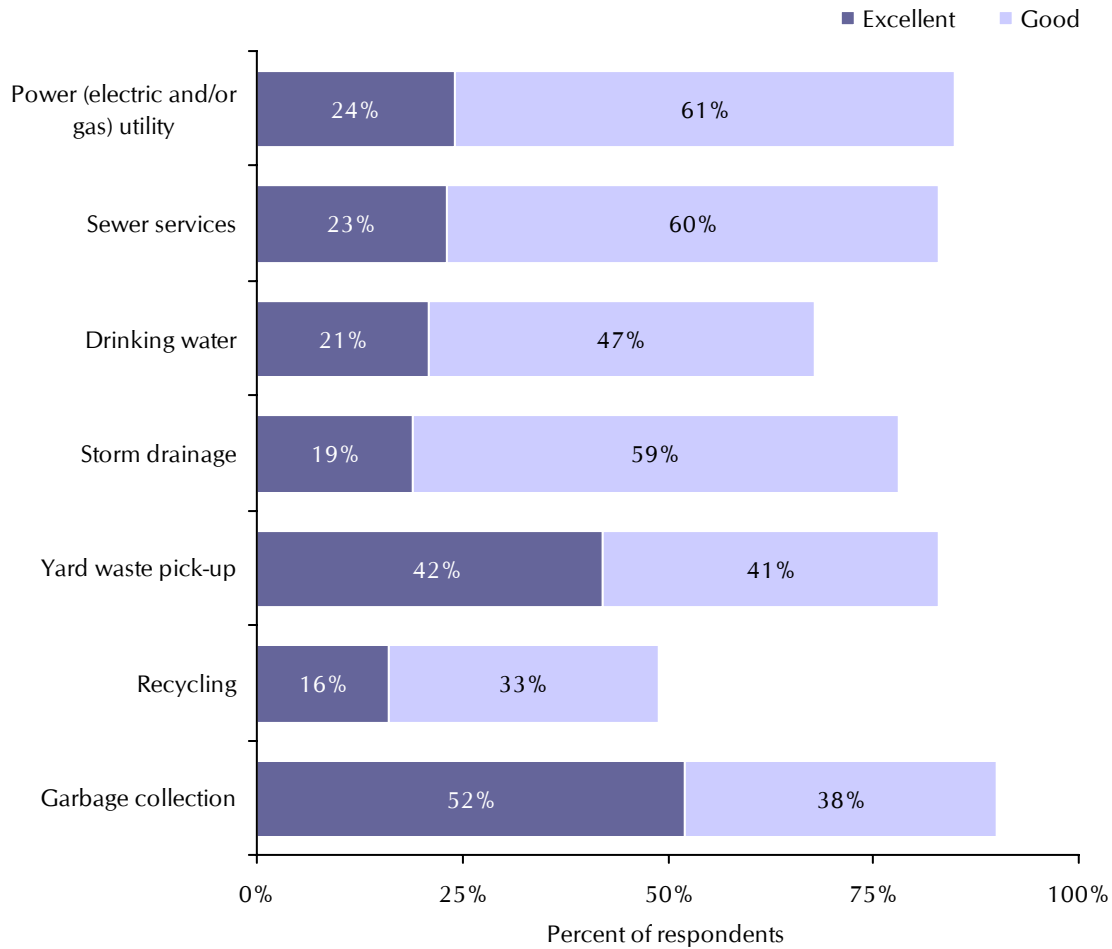


FIGURE 34: UTILITY SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	Similar
Sewer services	Similar
Drinking water	Similar
Storm drainage	Above
Yard waste pick-up	Above
Recycling	Below
Garbage collection	Above

RECREATION AND WELLNESS

Parks and Recreation

Quality parks and recreation opportunities help to define a community as more than the grind of its business, traffic and hard work. Leisure activities vastly can improve the quality of life of residents, serving both to entertain and mobilize good health. The survey contained questions seeking residents' perspectives about opportunities and services related the community's parks and recreation services.

FIGURE 35: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

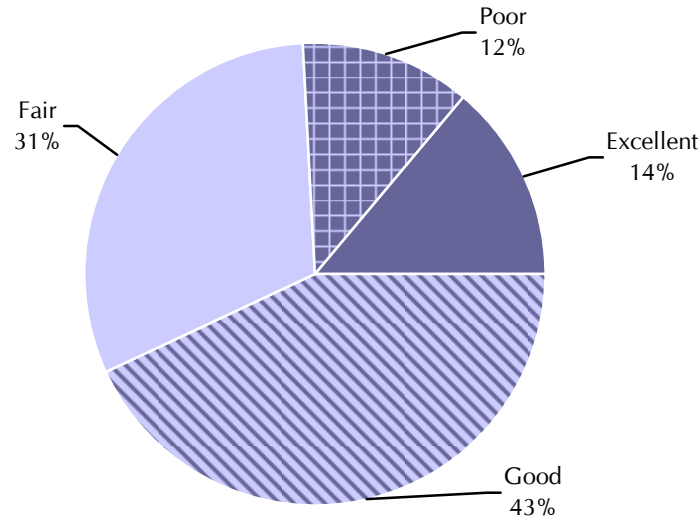


FIGURE 36: COMMUNITY RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Recreation opportunities	Below

FIGURE 37: PARTICIPATION IN PARKS AND RECREATION OPPORTUNITIES

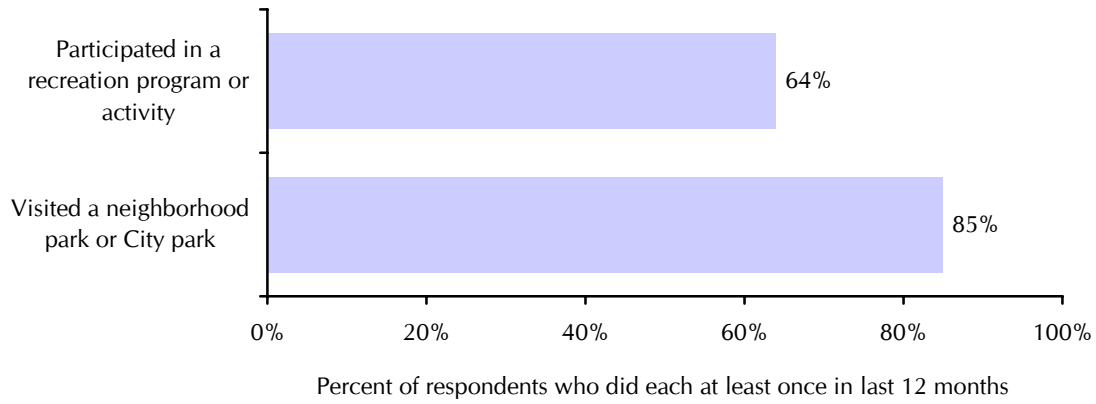


FIGURE 38: RATINGS OF PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES

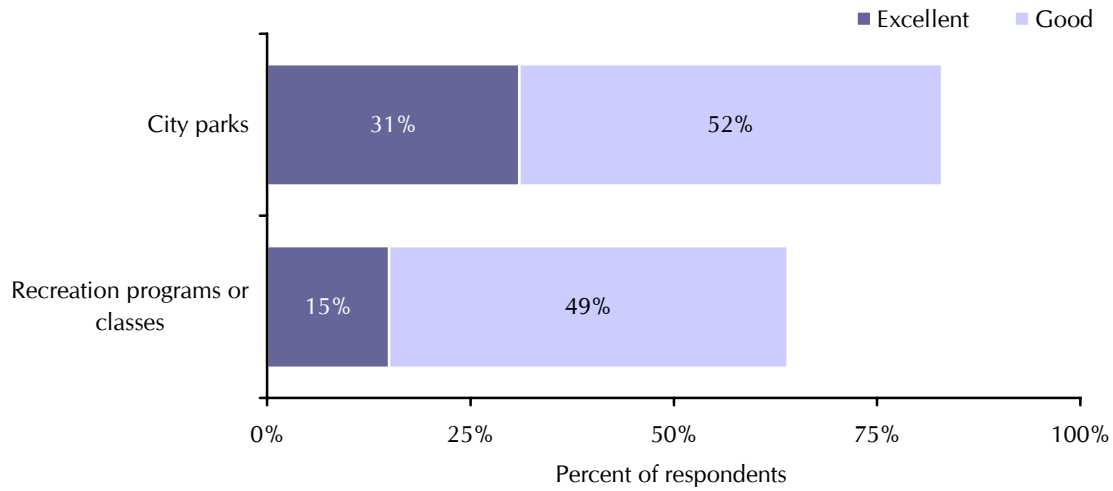


FIGURE 39: PARKS AND RECREATION SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
City parks	Similar
Recreation programs or classes	Below

Culture, Arts and Education

A full service community does not address only the life and safety of its residents. Like an individual who drudges to the office and returns home, a community that pays attention only to the life sustaining basics becomes insular, dreary and uninspiring to business and individuals. In the case of communities without thriving culture, arts and education opportunities, the magnet that attracts those who might consider relocating there is vastly weakened. Cultural, artistic, social and educational services elevate the opportunities for personal growth among residents. In the survey, residents were asked about the quality of opportunities to participate in cultural and educational activities.

Opportunities to attend cultural activities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 61% of respondents. Educational opportunities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 70% of respondents. Compared to the benchmark data, educational opportunities were similar to the average of comparison jurisdictions, as was cultural activity opportunities.

FIGURE 40: RATINGS OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

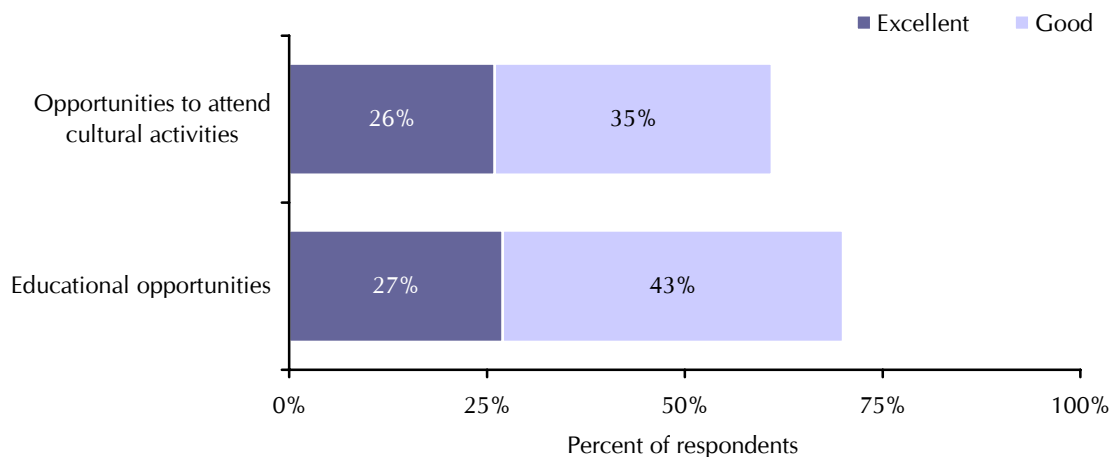


FIGURE 41: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

Comparison to benchmark	
Opportunities to attend cultural activities	Similar
Educational opportunities	Similar

FIGURE 42: PARTICIPATION IN CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

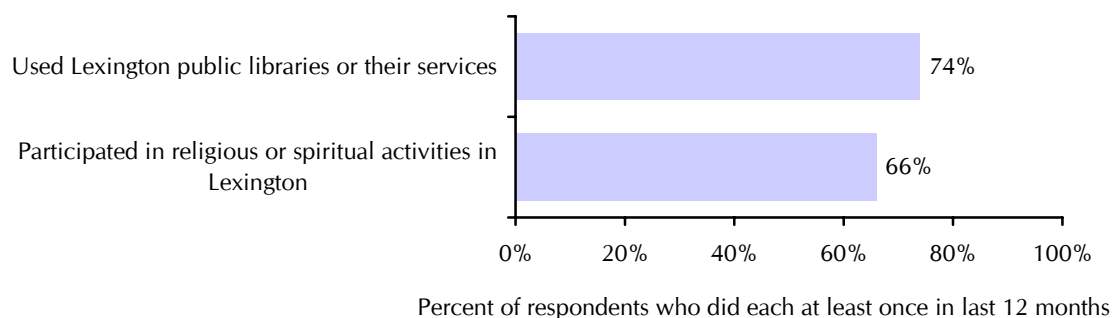


FIGURE 43: PERCEPTION OF CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

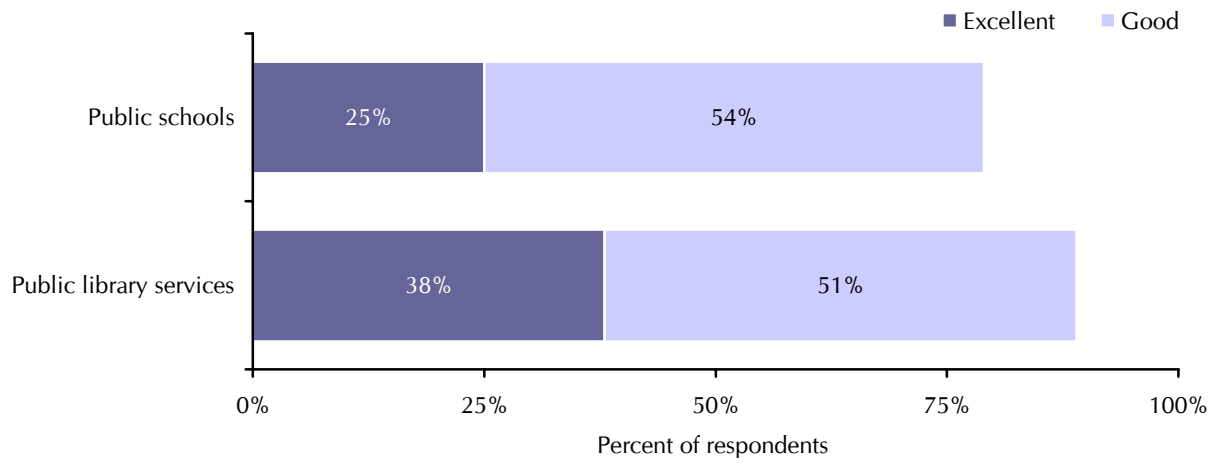


FIGURE 44: CULTURAL AND EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Public schools	Similar
Public library services	Similar

Health and Wellness

Healthy residents have the wherewithal to contribute to the economy as volunteers or employees and they do not present a burden in cost and time to others. Although residents bear the primary responsibility for their good health, local government provides services that can foster that well being and that provide care when residents are ill.

Residents of the City of Lexington were asked to rate the community's health services as well as the availability of health care, high quality affordable food and preventive health care services.

FIGURE 45: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES

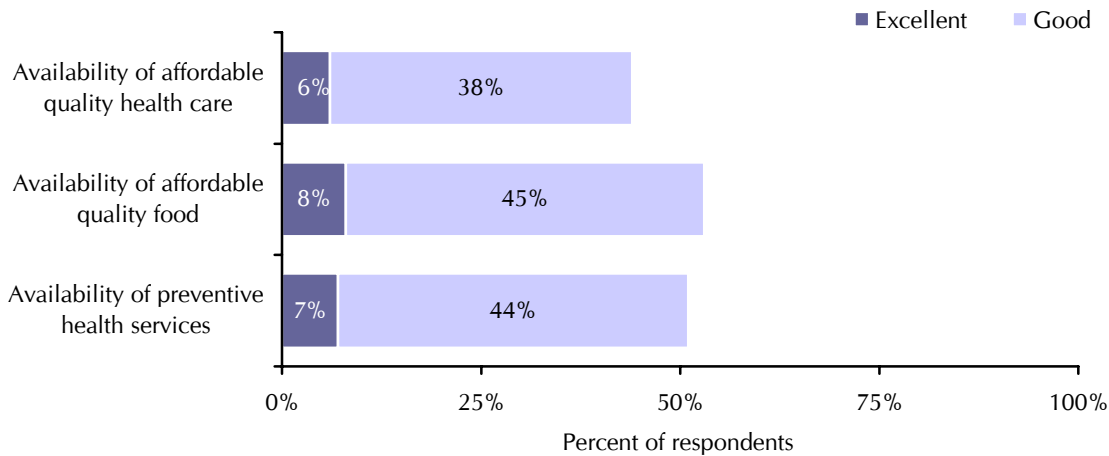


FIGURE 46: COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Availability of affordable quality health care	Below
Availability of affordable quality food	Below
Availability of preventive health services	Below

FIGURE 47: RATINGS OF HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES

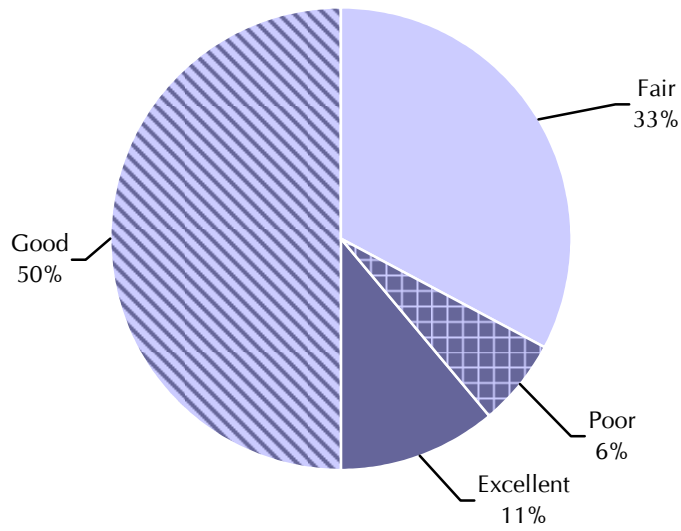


FIGURE 48: HEALTH AND WELLNESS SERVICES BENCHMARKS

Comparison to benchmark	
Health services	Below

COMMUNITY INCLUSIVENESS

Diverse communities that include among their residents a mix of races, ages, wealth, ideas and beliefs have the raw material for the most vibrant and creative society. However, the presence of these features alone does not ensure a high quality or desirable space. Surveyed residents were asked about the success of the mix: the sense of community, the openness of residents to people of diverse backgrounds and the attractiveness of the City of Lexington as a place to raise children or to retire. They were also questioned about the quality of services delivered to various population subgroups, including older adults, youth and residents with few resources. A community that succeeds in creating an inclusive environment for a variety of residents is a community that offers more to many.

A [high/moderate/low] percentage of residents rated the City of Lexington as an “excellent” or “good” place to raise kids and a high percentage rated it as an excellent or good place to retire. Most residents felt the local sense of community was excellent or good. Fewer survey respondents felt the City of Lexington was open and accepting towards people of diverse backgrounds. Availability of affordable quality child care was rated the lowest by residents and was lower than the benchmark.

FIGURE 49: RATINGS OF COMMUNITY QUALITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

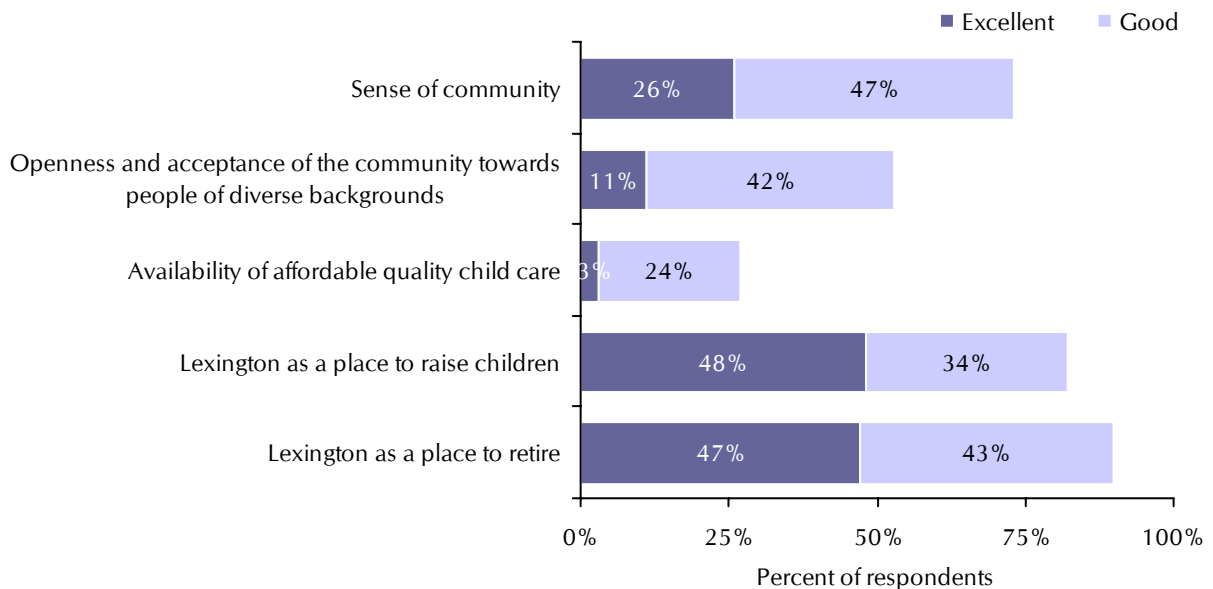


FIGURE 50: COMMUNITY QUALITY AND INCLUSIVENESS BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Sense of community	Similar
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	Below
Availability of affordable quality child care	Below
Lexington as a place to raise kids	Above
Lexington as a place to retire	Above

Services to more vulnerable populations (e.g., seniors, youth or low-income residents) ranged from 42% to 58% with ratings of “excellent” or “good.”

FIGURE 51: RATINGS OF QUALITY OF SERVICES PROVIDED FOR POPULATION SUBGROUPS

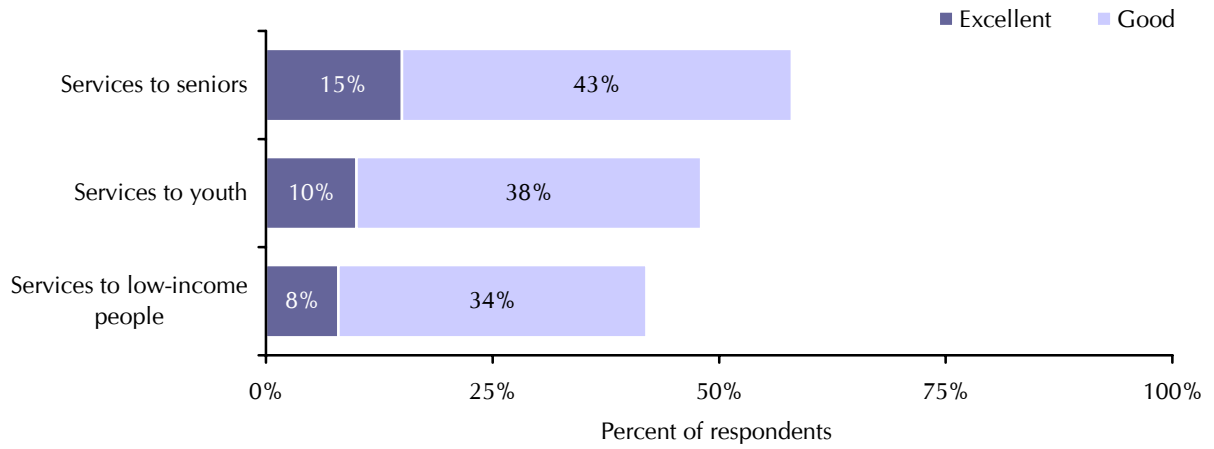


FIGURE 52: SERVICES PROVIDED FOR POPULATION SUBGROUPS BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Services to seniors	Below
Services to youth	Below
Services to low income residents	Below

CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Government leaders, elected or hired, cannot run a jurisdiction alone and a jurisdiction cannot run effectively if residents remain strangers with little to connect them. Staff and elected officials require the assistance of local residents whether that assistance comes in tacit approval or eager help; and commonality of purpose among the electorate facilitates policies and programs that appeal to most and causes discord among few. Furthermore, when neighbors help neighbors, the cost to the community to provide services to residents in need declines. When residents are civically engaged, they have taken the opportunity to participate in making the community more livable for all. The extent to which local government provides opportunities to become informed and engaged and the extent to which residents take those opportunities is an indicator of the connection between government and populace. By understanding your residents' level of connection to, knowledge of and participation in local government, the City can find better opportunities to communicate and educate citizens about its mission, services, accomplishments and plans. This survey information is essential for public communication and for helping local government staff to conceive strategies for reaching reluctant voters whose confidence in government may need boosting prior to important referenda.

Civic Activity

Respondents were asked about the perceived community volunteering opportunities and their participation as citizens of the City of Lexington. Survey participants rated the volunteer opportunities in the City of Lexington favorably. Opportunities to attend or participate in community matters were rated less favorably.

FIGURE 53: RATINGS OF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

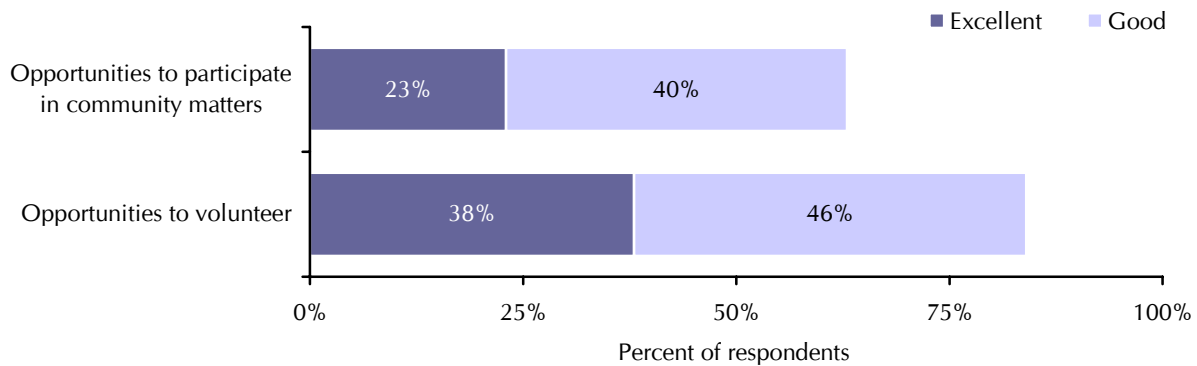
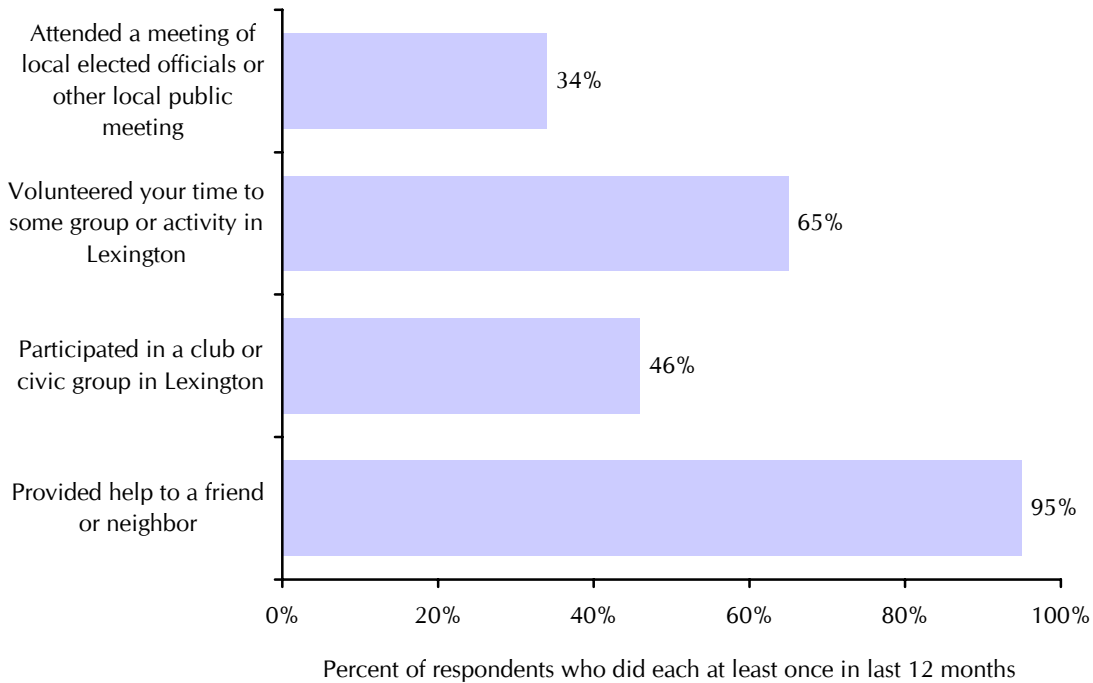


FIGURE 54: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Opportunities to participate in community matters	Below
Opportunities to volunteer	Above

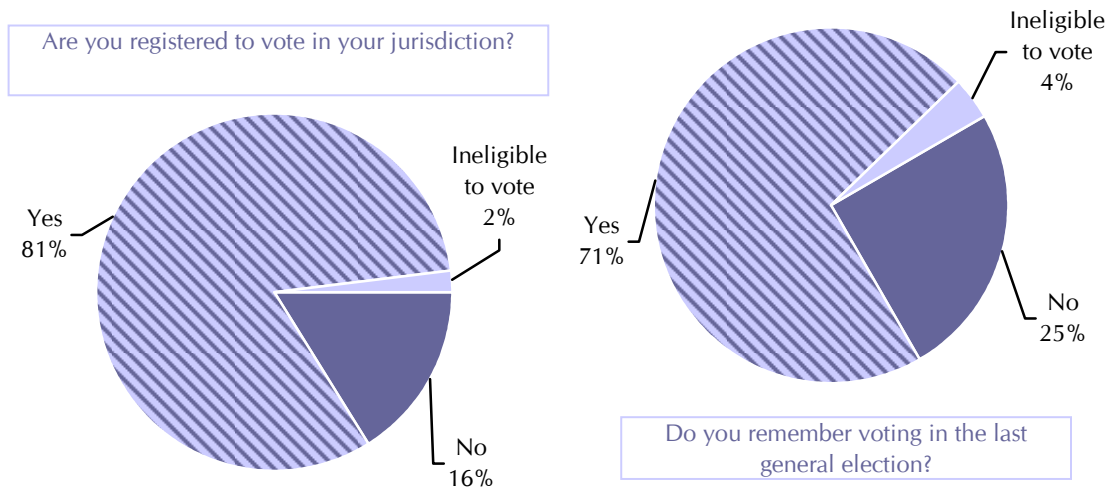
Most of the participants in this survey had not attended a public meeting in the 12 months prior, but the vast majority had helped a friend or neighbor.

FIGURE 55: PARTICIPATION IN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



City of Lexington residents showed the largest amount of civic engagement in the area of electoral participation. About 81% reported they were registered to vote; 71% indicated they had voted in the last general election.

FIGURE 56: REPORTED VOTING BEHAVIOR



Information and Awareness

Those completing the survey were asked about their use and perceptions of various information sources and local government media services. When asked whether they had visited the City of Lexington Web site in the previous 12 months, 49% reported they had done so at least once. Public information services were rated unfavorably compared to benchmark data.

FIGURE 57: USE OF INFORMATION SOURCES

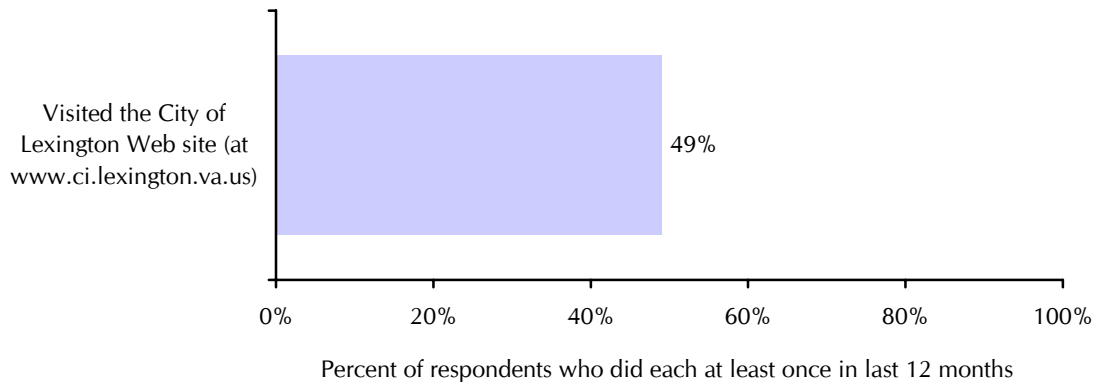


FIGURE 58: RATINGS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEDIA SERVICES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION

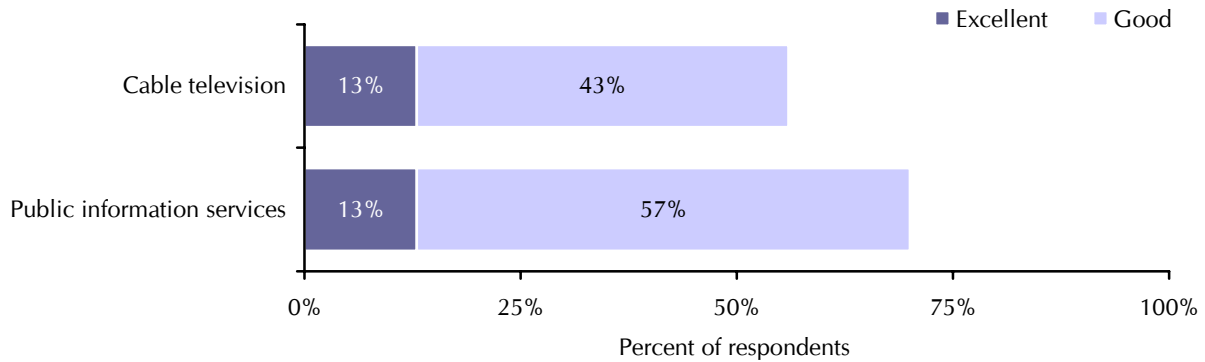


FIGURE 59: LOCAL GOVERNMENT MEDIA SERVICES AND INFORMATION DISSEMINATION BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Cable television	Below
Public information services	Below

Social Engagement

Opportunities to participate in social events and activities were rated as “excellent” or “good” by 67% of respondents, while even more rated opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities as “excellent” or “good.”

FIGURE 60: RATINGS OF SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

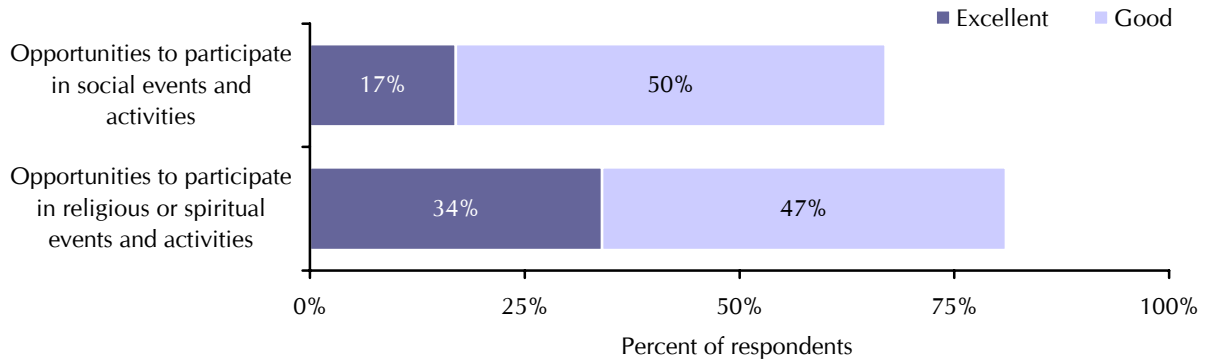
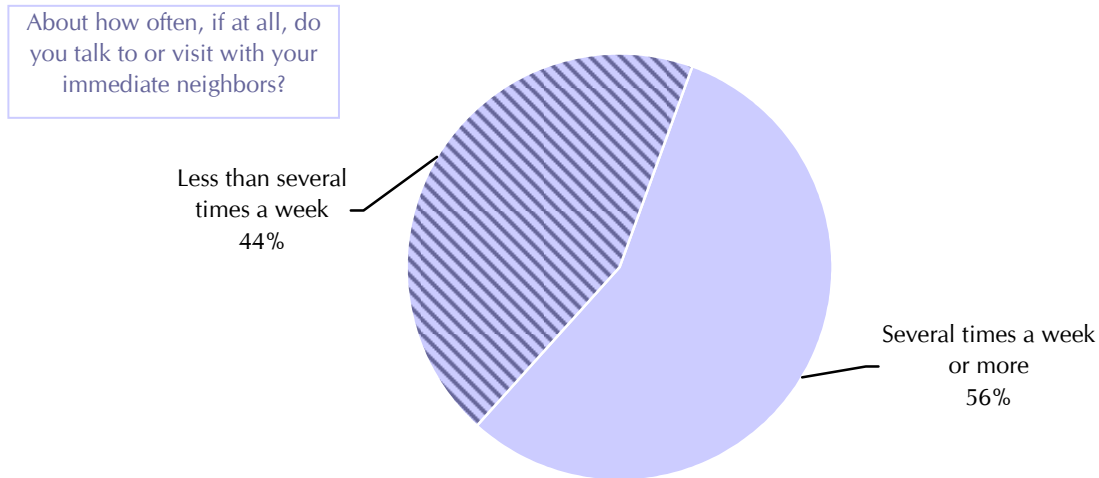


FIGURE 61: SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	Below
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events	Similar

Residents in Lexington reported a strong amount of neighborliness. More than 54% indicated talking or visiting with their neighbors several times a week or more frequently.

FIGURE 62: CONTACT WITH IMMEDIATE NEIGHBORS



PUBLIC TRUST

Residents are more likely to cooperate with the proposals and policies advanced by their community leaders when trust in local government officials runs high. Trust can be measured in residents' opinions about the overall direction the City of Lexington is taking, their perspectives about the service value their taxes purchase and the openness of government to citizen participation. In addition, resident opinion about services provided by the City of Lexington could be compared to their opinion about services provided by the state and federal governments. If residents find nothing to admire in the services delivered by any level of government, their opinions about the City of Lexington may be colored by their dislike of what all levels of government provide.

A majority of respondents felt that the value of services for taxes paid was "excellent" or "good." When asked to rate the job the City of Lexington does at listening to citizens, 50% rated it as "excellent" or "good."

FIGURE 63: PUBLIC TRUST RATINGS

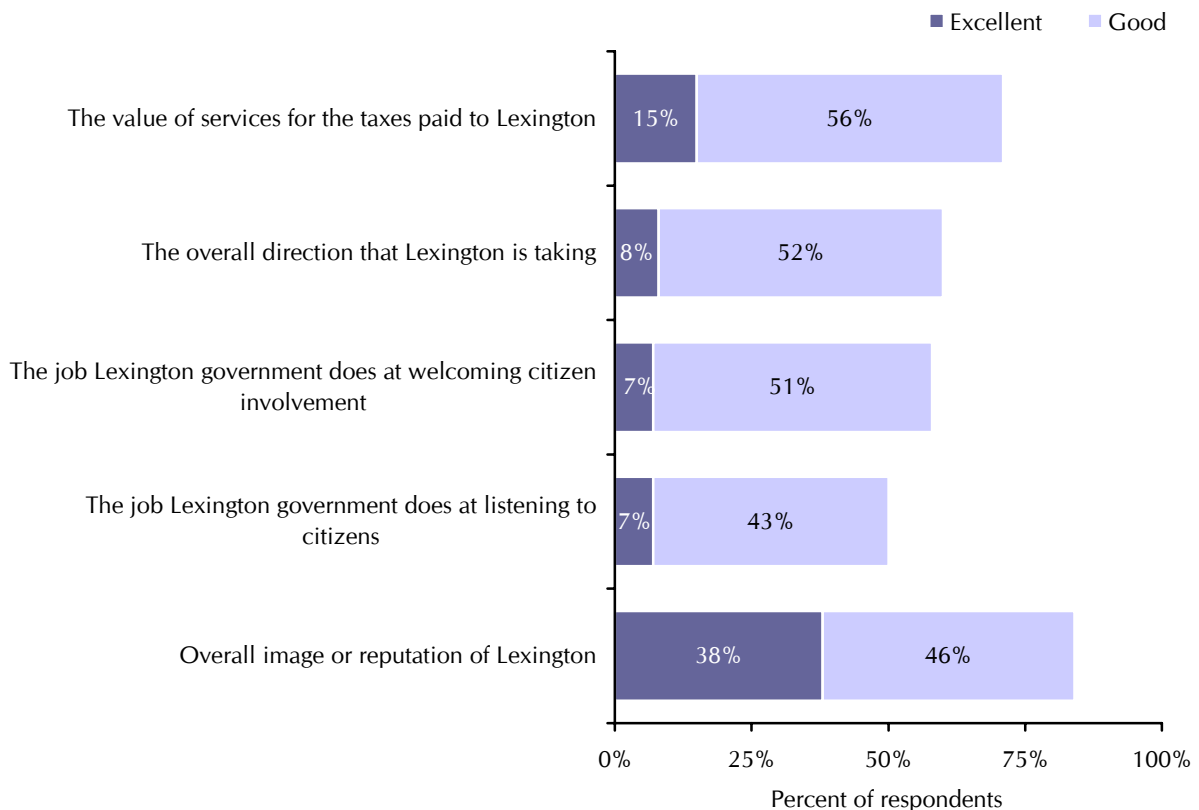


FIGURE 64: PUBLIC TRUST BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Value of services for the taxes paid to Lexington	Similar
The overall direction that Lexington is taking	Below
Job Lexington government does at welcoming citizen involvement	Below
Job Lexington government does at listening to citizens	Below
Overall image or reputation of Lexington	Above

On average, residents of the City of Lexington gave the highest evaluations to their own local government and the lowest average rating to the federal government. The overall quality of services delivered by the City of Lexington was rated as “excellent” or “good” by 81% of survey participants. The City of Lexington’s rating was similar to the benchmark when compared to other communities in the database.

FIGURE 65: RATINGS OF SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS

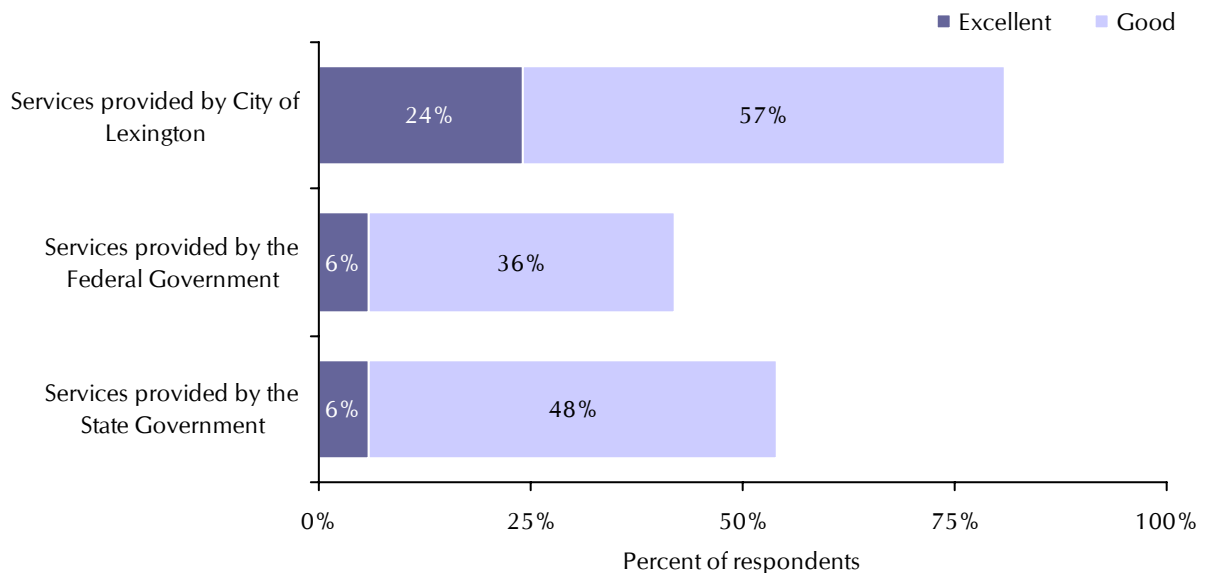


FIGURE 66: SERVICES PROVIDED BY LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
Services provided by the City of Lexington	Similar
Services provided by the Federal Government	Below
Services provided by the State Government	Similar

City of Lexington Employees

The employees of the City of Lexington who interact with the public create the first impression that most residents have of the City of Lexington. Front line staff who provide information, assist with bill paying, collect trash, create service schedules, fight fires and crime and even give traffic tickets are the collective face of the City of Lexington. As such, it is important to know about residents' experience talking with that "face." When employees appear to be knowledgeable, responsive and courteous, residents are more likely to feel that any needs or problems may be solved through positive and productive interactions with the City of Lexington staff.

Those completing the survey were asked if they had been in contact with a City employee either in-person or over the phone in the last 12 months; the 68% who reported that they had been in contact were then asked to indicate overall how satisfied they were with the employee in their most recent contact. City employees were rated highly; 81% of respondents rated their overall impression as "excellent" or "good."

FIGURE 67: PROPORTION OF RESPONDENTS WHO HAD CONTACT WITH CITY EMPLOYEES IN PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS

Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of Lexington within the last 12 months

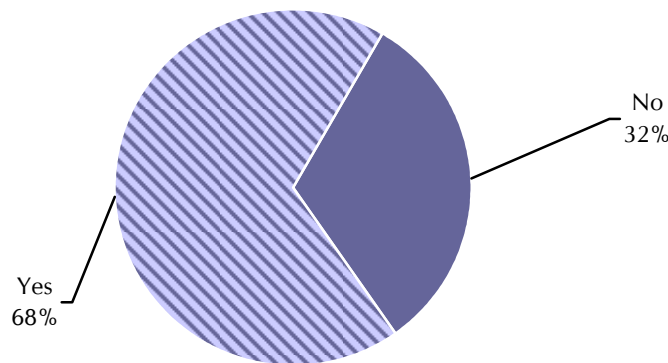


FIGURE 68: RATINGS OF CITY EMPLOYEES (AMONG THOSE WHO HAD CONTACT)

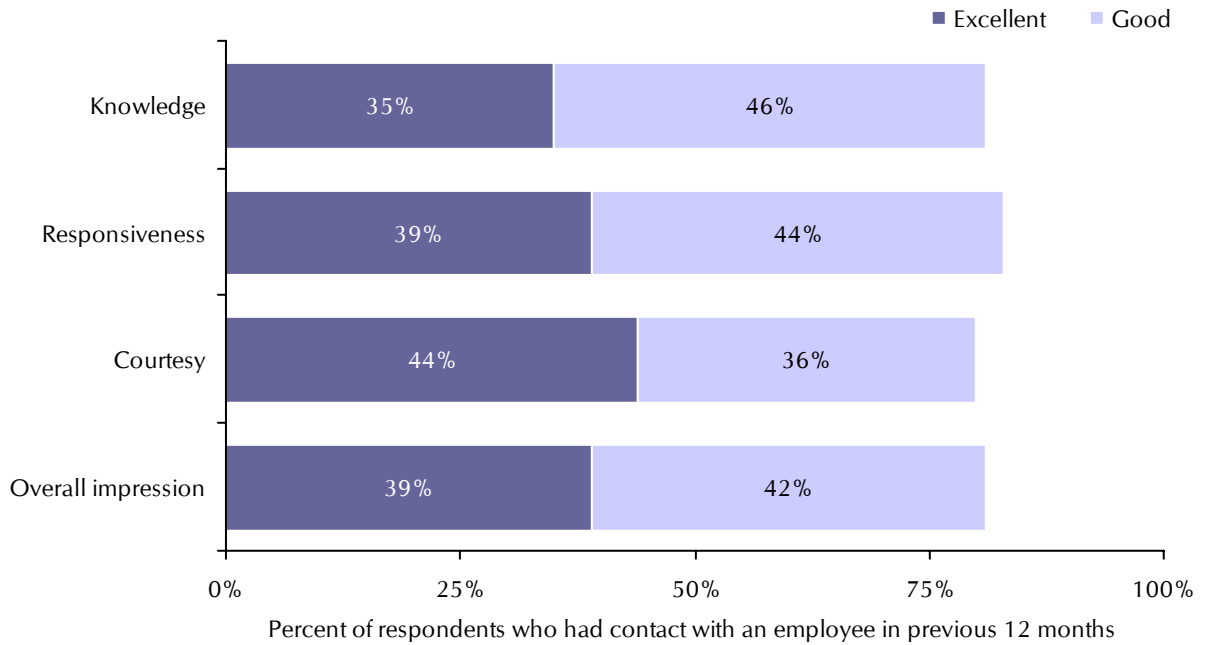


FIGURE 69: RATINGS OF CITY EMPLOYEES (AMONG THOSE WHO HAD CONTACT) BENCHMARKS

	Comparison to benchmark
City employee knowledge	Below
City employee responsiveness	Similar
City employee courteousness	Similar
Overall impression	Similar

FROM DATA TO ACTION

RESIDENT PRIORITIES

Knowing where to focus limited resources to improve residents' opinions of local government requires information that targets the services that are most important to residents. However, when residents are asked what services are most important, they rarely stray beyond core services – those directed to save lives and improve safety.

In market research, identifying the most important characteristics of a transaction or product is called Key Driver Analysis. The key drivers that are identified from that analysis do not come from asking customers to self-report which service or product characteristic most influenced their decision to buy or return, but rather from statistical analyses of the predictors of their behavior. When customers are asked to name the most important characteristics of a good or service, responses often are expected or misleading – just as they can be in the context of a citizen survey. For example, air travelers often claim that safety is the primary consideration in their choice of an airline, yet key driver analysis reveals that frequent flier perks or in-flight entertainment predicts their buying decisions.

In local government core services – like fire protection – invariably land at the top of the list created when residents are asked about the most important local government services. And core services are important. But by using Key Driver Analysis, our approach digs deeper to identify the less obvious, but more influential services that are most related to residents' ratings of overall quality of local government services. Because services focused directly on life and safety remain essential to quality government, it is suggested that core services should remain the focus of continuous monitoring and improvement where necessary – but monitoring core services or asking residents to identify important services is not enough.

A Key Driver Analysis (KDA) was conducted for the City of Lexington by examining the relationships between ratings of each service and ratings of the City of Lexington's overall services. Those key driver services that correlated most highly with residents' perceptions about overall City service quality have been identified. By targeting improvements in key services, the City of Lexington can focus on the services that have the greatest likelihood of influencing residents' opinions about overall service quality.

Services found to be most strongly correlated with ratings of overall service quality from the Lexington Key Driver Analysis were:

- Police services
- City parks

CITY OF LEXINGTON ACTION CHART™

The 2008 City of Lexington Action Chart™ on the following page combines three dimensions of performance:

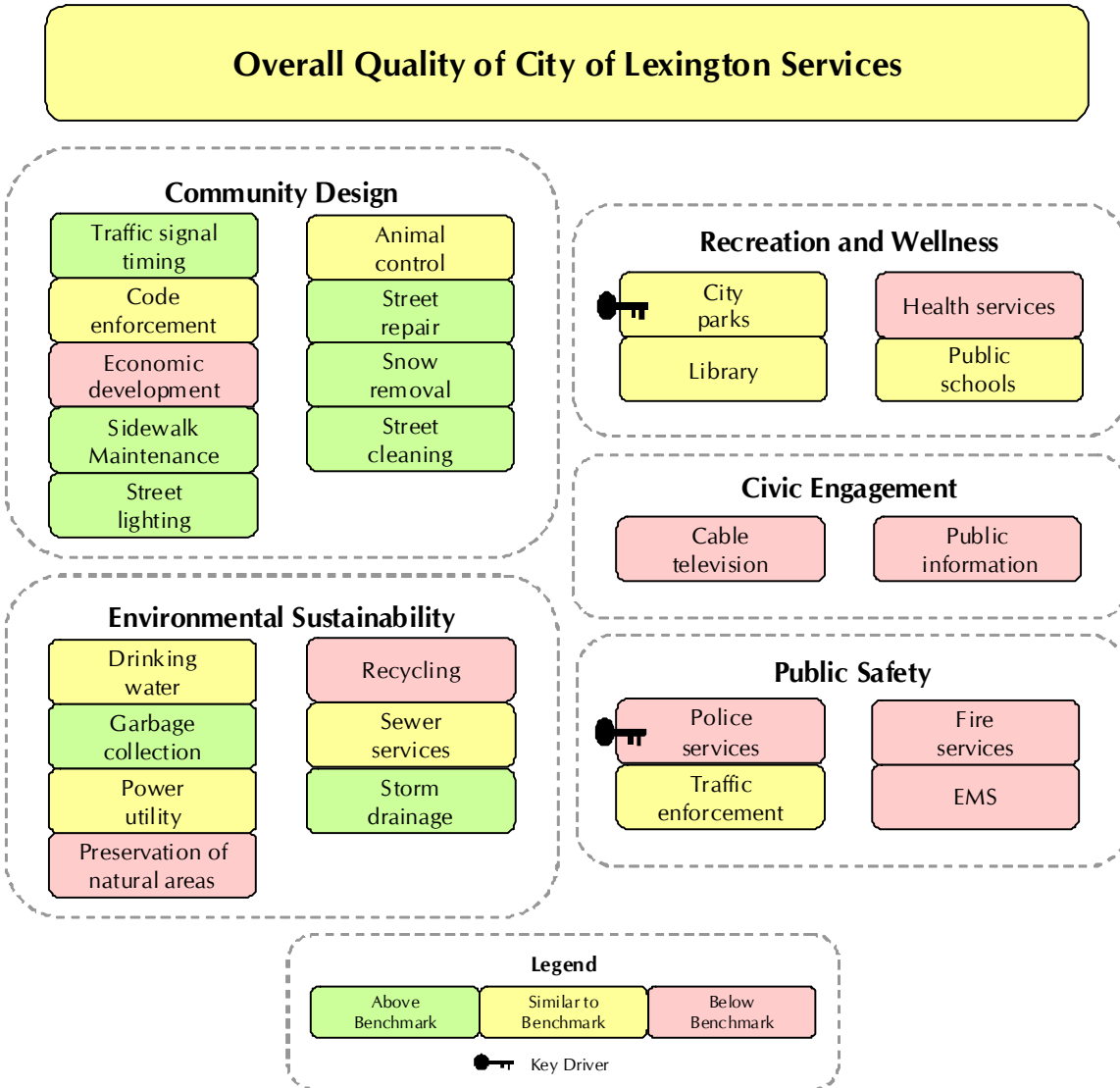
- Comparison to resident evaluations from other communities. When a comparison is available, the background color of each service box indicates whether the service is above the benchmark (green), similar to the benchmark (yellow) or below the benchmark (red).
- Identification of key services. A black key icon next to a service box indicates that service is key (either core or key driver)

Twenty-six services were included in the KDA for the City of Lexington. Of these, eight were above the benchmark, nine were below the benchmark and nine were similar to the benchmark. The two key drivers are shown.

Considering all performance data included in the Action Chart, a jurisdiction typically will want to consider improvements to any key driver services that are not at least similar to the benchmark. In Lexington, police services were below the benchmark and city parks was similar to the benchmark. More detail about interpreting results can be found in the next section.

Services with a high percent of respondents answering “don’t know” were excluded from the analysis and were considered services that would be less influential. See Appendix A: Complete Survey Frequencies, Frequencies Including “Don’t Know” Responses for the percent “don’t know” for each service.

FIGURE 70: CITY OF LEXINGTON ACTION CHART



Using Your Action Chart™

The key drivers derived for the City of Lexington provide a list of those services that are uniquely related to overall service quality here. Those key drivers are marked by key symbols in the action chart. Because key driver results are based on a relatively small number of responses, the relationships or correlations that define the key drivers are subject to more variability than is seen when key drivers are derived from a large national dataset of resident responses. To benefit the City of Lexington, NRC lists the key drivers derived from tens of thousands of resident responses from across the county. This list is updated every three years so that you can compare your key drivers to the key drivers from the entire NRC data set. Where your locally derived key drivers overlap national key drivers, it makes sense to focus even more strongly on your keys. Similarly, when your local key drivers overlap your core services, there is stronger argument to make for attending to your key drivers that overlap with core services. In the following table, we have listed your key drivers, core services and the national key drivers below and we have indicated the City of Lexington key drivers that overlap core services or the nationally derived keys.

FIGURE 71: KEY DRIVERS COMPARED

Service	City of Lexington Key Drivers	National Key Drivers	Core Services
City parks	✓		
Code enforcement			✓
Economic development		✓	
EMS			✓
Fire			✓
Garbage collection			✓
Land use planning and zoning		✓	
Police services	✓	✓	✓
Public information services		✓	
Public schools		✓	
Sewer			✓
Storm drainage			✓
Street repair			✓
Water			✓

POLICY QUESTIONS

“Don’t know” responses have been removed from the following questions.

Policy Question 1	
To what degree would you support or oppose using tax dollars to create a whitewater recreation facility at Jordan’s Point Park?	Percent of respondents
Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	36%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	29%
Total	100%

Policy Question 2	
To what degree would you support or oppose additional local taxes to be used for downtown promotion?	Percent of respondents
Strongly support	16%
Somewhat support	42%
Somewhat oppose	25%
Strongly oppose	17%
Total	100%

APPENDIX A: COMPLETE SURVEY FREQUENCIES

FREQUENCIES EXCLUDING “DON’T KNOW” RESPONSES

Question 1: Quality of Life					
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Lexington:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Lexington as a place to live	44%	44%	10%	1%	100%
Your neighborhood as a place to live	42%	44%	12%	2%	100%
Lexington as a place to raise children	48%	34%	14%	3%	100%
Lexington as a place to work	20%	32%	29%	19%	100%
Lexington as a place to retire	47%	43%	7%	3%	100%
The overall quality of life in Lexington	38%	43%	18%	2%	100%

Question 2: Community Characteristics					
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lexington as a whole:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Sense of community	26%	47%	22%	5%	100%
Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds	11%	42%	32%	15%	100%
Overall appearance of Lexington	33%	52%	15%	1%	100%
Cleanliness of Lexington	39%	47%	12%	2%	100%
Overall quality of new development in Lexington	8%	40%	36%	15%	100%
Variety of housing options	4%	29%	45%	22%	100%
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Lexington	11%	39%	37%	14%	100%
Shopping opportunities	2%	21%	41%	37%	100%
Opportunities to attend cultural activities	26%	35%	28%	11%	100%
Recreational opportunities	14%	43%	31%	12%	100%
Employment opportunities	1%	17%	42%	39%	100%
Educational opportunities	27%	43%	22%	8%	100%
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	17%	50%	24%	8%	100%
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	34%	47%	16%	3%	100%
Opportunities to volunteer	38%	46%	14%	2%	100%
Opportunities to participate in community matters	23%	40%	27%	10%	100%
Ease of car travel in Lexington	27%	43%	19%	11%	100%
Ease of bicycle travel in Lexington	20%	35%	28%	17%	100%
Ease of walking in Lexington	46%	37%	14%	3%	100%
Availability of paths and walking trails	30%	42%	23%	5%	100%
Traffic flow on major streets	12%	47%	28%	14%	100%
Amount of public parking	5%	31%	35%	29%	100%
Availability of affordable quality housing	3%	24%	36%	36%	100%
Availability of affordable quality child care	3%	24%	43%	29%	100%
Availability of affordable quality health care	6%	38%	36%	19%	100%
Availability of affordable quality food	8%	45%	35%	12%	100%
Availability of preventive health services	7%	44%	36%	13%	100%
Air quality	31%	50%	17%	1%	100%
Quality of overall natural environment in Lexington	35%	48%	16%	1%	100%
Overall image or reputation of Lexington	38%	46%	14%	2%	100%

Question 3: Growth						
Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Lexington over the past 2 years:	Much too slow	Somewhat too slow	Right amount	Somewhat too fast	Much too fast	Total
Population growth	3%	9%	59%	22%	7%	100%
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	20%	42%	32%	5%	2%	100%
Jobs growth	37%	45%	17%	0%	1%	100%

Question 4: Code Enforcement	
To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Lexington?	Percent of respondents
Not a problem	30%
Minor problem	46%
Moderate problem	20%
Major problem	5%
Total	100%

Question 5: Community Safety						
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Lexington:	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Total
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	63%	31%	4%	2%	1%	100%
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	39%	48%	7%	5%	0%	100%
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste	53%	35%	8%	2%	1%	100%

Question 6: Personal Safety						
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe	Somewhat safe	Neither safe nor unsafe	Somewhat unsafe	Very unsafe	Total
In your neighborhood during the day	84%	14%	1%	1%	0%	100%
In your neighborhood after dark	60%	31%	5%	3%	0%	100%
In Lexington's downtown area during the day	83%	15%	1%	1%	0%	100%
In Lexington's downtown area after dark	52%	37%	7%	4%	0%	100%

Question 7: Crime Victim	
During the past twelve months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime?	Percent of respondents
No	93%
Yes	7%
Total	100%

Question 8: Crime Reporting	
If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police?	Percent of respondents
No	21%
Yes	79%
Total	100%

Question 9: Resident Behaviors						
In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Lexington?	Never	Once or twice	3 to 12 times	13 to 26 times	More than 26 times	Total
Used Lexington public libraries or their services	26%	21%	28%	10%	15%	100%
Participated in a recreation program or activity	36%	31%	20%	4%	8%	100%
Visited a neighborhood park or City park	15%	23%	26%	19%	17%	100%
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	66%	22%	10%	1%	1%	100%
Visited the City of Lexington Web site (at www.ci.lexington.va.us)	51%	25%	19%	3%	2%	100%
Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home	32%	14%	15%	15%	24%	100%
Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Lexington	35%	23%	19%	9%	13%	100%
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Lexington	34%	18%	13%	8%	26%	100%
Participated in a club or civic group in Lexington	54%	18%	12%	6%	10%	100%
Provided help to a friend or neighbor	5%	14%	45%	18%	19%	100%

Question 10: Neighborliness	
About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?	Percent of respondents
Just about everyday	26%
Several times a week	30%
Several times a month	21%
Once a month	6%
Several times a year	10%
Once a year or less	3%
Never	3%
Total	100%

Question 11: Service Quality					
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Lexington:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Police services	27%	56%	12%	5%	100%
Fire services	38%	57%	6%	0%	100%
Ambulance or emergency medical services	36%	52%	9%	3%	100%
Crime prevention	25%	58%	15%	1%	100%
Fire prevention and education	23%	55%	18%	3%	100%
Municipal courts	15%	57%	20%	9%	100%
Traffic enforcement	22%	50%	20%	8%	100%
Street repair	17%	54%	23%	7%	100%
Street cleaning	28%	55%	15%	3%	100%
Street lighting	23%	54%	19%	4%	100%
Snow removal	30%	54%	14%	2%	100%
Sidewalk maintenance	16%	54%	23%	6%	100%
Traffic signal timing	16%	49%	27%	9%	100%
Garbage collection	52%	38%	6%	4%	100%
Recycling	16%	33%	21%	31%	100%
Yard waste pick-up	42%	41%	13%	4%	100%
Storm drainage	19%	59%	19%	3%	100%
Drinking water	21%	47%	25%	7%	100%
Sewer services	23%	60%	15%	2%	100%
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	24%	61%	14%	0%	100%
City parks	31%	52%	14%	3%	100%
Recreation programs or classes	15%	49%	25%	11%	100%
Land use, planning and zoning	8%	41%	32%	19%	100%
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	11%	45%	31%	13%	100%
Animal control	15%	56%	25%	5%	100%
Economic development	5%	30%	43%	22%	100%
Health services	11%	50%	33%	6%	100%
Services to seniors	15%	43%	27%	15%	100%
Services to youth	10%	38%	31%	21%	100%
Services to low-income people	8%	34%	35%	23%	100%
Public library services	38%	51%	10%	2%	100%
Public information services	13%	57%	26%	5%	100%
Public schools	25%	54%	17%	4%	100%
Cable television	13%	43%	31%	13%	100%
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	8%	41%	36%	15%	100%
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	11%	47%	31%	11%	100%

Question 12: Government Services Overall					
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
The City of Lexington	24%	57%	15%	4%	100%
The Federal Government	6%	36%	42%	16%	100%
The State Government	6%	48%	37%	9%	100%

Question 13: Contact with City Employees	
Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of the City of Lexington within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)?	Percent of respondents
No	32%
Yes	68%
Total	100%

Question 14: City Employees					
What was your impression of the employee(s) of the City of Lexington in your most recent contact?	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
Knowledge	35%	46%	16%	4%	100%
Responsiveness	39%	44%	10%	7%	100%
Courtesy	44%	36%	12%	8%	100%
Overall impression	39%	42%	11%	7%	100%

Question 15: Government Performance					
Please rate the following categories of Lexington government performance:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Total
The value of services for the taxes paid to Lexington	15%	56%	21%	8%	100%
The overall direction that Lexington is taking	8%	52%	29%	11%	100%
The job Lexington government does at welcoming citizen involvement	7%	51%	29%	13%	100%
The job Lexington government does at listening to citizens	7%	43%	30%	19%	100%

Question 16: Recommendation and Longevity					
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely	Somewhat likely	Somewhat unlikely	Very unlikely	Total
Recommend living in Lexington to someone who asks	49%	32%	13%	6%	100%
Remain in Lexington for the next five years	59%	15%	7%	19%	100%

Question 17: Impact of the Economy	
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent of respondents
Very positive	4%
Somewhat positive	7%
Neutral	30%
Somewhat negative	44%
Very negative	15%
Total	100%

Question 18a: Policy Question 1	
To what degree would you support or oppose using tax dollars to create a whitewater recreation facility at Jordan's Point Park?	Percent of respondents
Strongly support	22%
Somewhat support	36%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	29%
Total	100%

Question 18b: Policy Question 2	
To what degree would you support or oppose additional local taxes to be used for downtown promotion?	Percent of respondents
Strongly support	16%
Somewhat support	42%
Somewhat oppose	25%
Strongly oppose	17%
Total	100%

Question D1: Employment Status	
Are you currently employed for pay?	Percent of respondents
No	32%
Yes, full-time	56%
Yes, part-time	12%
Total	100%

Question D2: Mode of Transportation Used for Commute	
During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below?	Percent of days mode used
Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) by myself	58%
Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) with other children or adults	12%
Bus, rail, subway or other public transportation	0%
Bicycle	3%
Bicycle	3%
Work at home	8%
Other	1%

Question D3: Length of Residency	
How many years have you lived in Lexington?	Percent of respondents
Less than 2 years	15%
2 to 5 years	22%
6 to 10 years	14%
11 to 20 years	12%
More than 20 years	36%
Total	100%

Question D4: Housing Unit Type	
Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent of respondents
One family house detached from any other houses	65%
House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	9%
Building with two or more apartments or condominiums	23%
Mobile home	1%
Other	1%
Total	100%

Question D5: Housing Tenure (Rent/Own)	
Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent of respondents
Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment	44%
Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear	56%
Total	100%

Question D6: Monthly Housing Cost	
About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent of respondents
Less than \$300 per month	10%
\$300 to \$599 per month	32%
\$600 to \$999 per month	29%
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	14%
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	11%
\$2,500 or more per month	4%
Total	100%

Question D7: Presence of Children in Household	
Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent of respondents
No	73%
Yes	27%
Total	100%

Question D8: Presence of Older Adults in Household	
Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent of respondents
No	68%
Yes	32%
Total	100%

Question D9: Household Income	
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent of respondents
Less than \$24,999	26%
\$25,000 to \$49,999	28%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	29%
\$100,000 to \$149,000	10%
\$150,000 or more	7%
Total	100%

Question D10: Ethnicity	
Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent of respondents
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	97%
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	3%
Total	100%

Question D11: Race	
What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent of respondents
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3%
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	2%
Black or African American	6%
White	92%
Other	3%
Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option	

Question D12: Age	
In which category is your age?	Percent of respondents
18 to 24 years	9%
25 to 34 years	23%
35 to 44 years	8%
45 to 54 years	20%
55 to 64 years	15%
65 to 74 years	11%
75 years or older	14%
Total	100%

Question D13: Gender	
What is your sex?	Percent of respondents
Female	57%
Male	43%
Total	100%

Question D14: Registered to Vote	
Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	Percent of respondents
No	16%
Yes	81%
Ineligible to vote	2%
Total	100%

Question D15: Voted in Last General Election	
Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	Percent of respondents
No	25%
Yes	71%
Ineligible to vote	4%
Total	100%

FREQUENCIES INCLUDING “DON’T KNOW” RESPONSES

These tables contain the percentage of respondents for each response category as well as the “n” or total number of respondents for each category, next to the percentage.

Question 1: Quality of Life												
Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Lexington:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Lexington as a place to live	44%	173	44%	171	10%	41	1%	6	1%	2	100%	393
Your neighborhood as a place to live	42%	164	44%	171	12%	47	2%	7	0%	1	100%	390
Lexington as a place to raise children	43%	166	31%	118	12%	47	3%	11	11%	42	100%	384
Lexington as a place to work	19%	73	30%	117	28%	107	18%	68	5%	20	100%	386
Lexington as a place to retire	39%	150	36%	138	6%	24	2%	9	16%	62	100%	382
The overall quality of life in Lexington	37%	145	42%	164	18%	70	2%	7	1%	2	100%	389

Question 2: Community Characteristics												
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lexington as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Sense of community	25%	96	46%	175	22%	82	5%	18	3%	11	100%	383
Openness and acceptance of the community towards people of diverse backgrounds	10%	38	40%	154	30%	116	14%	55	6%	25	100%	389
Overall appearance of Lexington	33%	128	52%	202	15%	57	1%	3	0%	1	100%	392
Cleanliness of Lexington	39%	153	47%	183	12%	45	2%	7	0%	0	100%	388
Overall quality of new development in Lexington	7%	28	36%	135	32%	120	14%	51	11%	43	100%	378
Variety of housing options	4%	16	28%	105	42%	161	21%	79	5%	20	100%	382
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Lexington	10%	40	38%	148	36%	139	13%	52	2%	8	100%	388
Shopping opportunities	2%	6	20%	80	40%	157	36%	142	2%	6	100%	391
Opportunities to attend cultural activities	26%	100	34%	131	27%	107	10%	40	3%	13	100%	390
Recreational opportunities	13%	52	42%	162	30%	115	11%	43	4%	16	100%	388
Employment opportunities	1%	4	16%	60	38%	147	35%	137	10%	37	100%	386
Educational opportunities	26%	100	42%	162	22%	84	8%	30	3%	10	100%	386
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	17%	65	47%	186	23%	90	8%	31	5%	19	100%	392
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities	30%	118	43%	165	14%	55	3%	10	10%	38	100%	386
Opportunities to volunteer	35%	136	42%	163	13%	50	2%	8	8%	31	100%	388
Opportunities to participate in community matters	21%	80	36%	139	24%	92	9%	35	10%	40	100%	386
Ease of car travel in Lexington	27%	104	43%	166	19%	74	11%	44	1%	3	100%	391
Ease of bicycle travel in Lexington	16%	61	28%	105	23%	86	14%	52	20%	75	100%	380
Ease of walking in Lexington	46%	178	36%	141	14%	53	3%	12	1%	5	100%	389
Availability of paths and walking trails	29%	111	40%	154	21%	83	5%	17	6%	21	100%	387
Traffic flow on major streets	12%	46	46%	181	27%	107	13%	52	1%	4	100%	390
Amount of public parking	5%	21	30%	118	34%	133	29%	110	1%	5	100%	386
Availability of affordable quality housing	3%	12	23%	87	34%	131	34%	129	6%	24	100%	384
Availability of affordable quality child care	2%	6	13%	51	24%	91	16%	61	45%	170	100%	380

Question 2: Community Characteristics												
Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lexington as a whole:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Availability of affordable quality health care	6%	22	33%	130	31%	123	17%	66	13%	50	100%	392
Availability of affordable quality food	8%	30	45%	175	34%	135	11%	45	2%	8	100%	392
Availability of preventive health services	5%	20	34%	133	28%	108	10%	40	22%	85	100%	386
Air quality	30%	115	48%	186	17%	64	1%	5	4%	14	100%	385
Quality of overall natural environment in Lexington	35%	135	47%	183	16%	60	1%	3	2%	7	100%	388
Overall image or reputation of Lexington	38%	146	45%	175	14%	55	2%	7	2%	6	100%	389

Question 3: Growth														
Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Lexington over the past 2 years:	Much too slow		Somewhat too slow		Right amount		Somewhat too fast		Much too fast		Don't know		Total	
Population growth	2%	8	7%	27	44%	172	17%	65	5%	20	25%	97	100%	390
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.)	17%	66	36%	140	27%	106	4%	17	2%	7	14%	56	100%	391
Jobs growth	27%	106	32%	126	12%	48	0%	1	0%	2	28%	108	100%	390

Question 4: Code Enforcement		
To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Lexington?	Percent of respondents	Count
Not a problem	28%	108
Minor problem	43%	166
Moderate problem	19%	73
Major problem	4%	17
Don't know	6%	22
Total	100%	387

Question 5: Community Safety														
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Lexington:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Don't know		Total	
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	61%	240	30%	120	4%	14	2%	8	0%	2	2%	9	100%	393
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft)	39%	151	47%	185	7%	27	4%	18	0%	2	2%	8	100%	391
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste	48%	187	31%	122	8%	30	2%	9	1%	5	10%	38	100%	391

Question 6: Personal Safety														
Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:	Very safe		Somewhat safe		Neither safe nor unsafe		Somewhat unsafe		Very unsafe		Don't know		Total	
In your neighborhood during the day	84%	330	14%	57	1%	3	1%	3	0%	0	0%	1	100%	394
In your neighborhood after dark	60%	235	31%	121	5%	20	3%	13	0%	1	1%	3	100%	393
In Lexington's downtown area during the day	81%	320	15%	60	1%	3	1%	3	0%	0	2%	6	100%	393
In Lexington's downtown area after dark	50%	196	36%	140	7%	28	4%	15	0%	2	3%	12	100%	392

Question 7: Crime Victim		
During the past twelve months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	93%	362
Yes	7%	27
Don't know	0%	2
Total	100%	391

Question 8: Crime Reporting		
If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	18%	6
Yes	67%	21
Don't know	15%	5
Total	100%	32

Question 9: Resident Behaviors												
In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Lexington?	Never		Once or twice		3 to 12 times		13 to 26 times		More than 26 times		Total	
Used Lexington public libraries or their services	26%	101	21%	81	28%	109	10%	40	15%	60	100%	391
Participated in a recreation program or activity	36%	139	31%	120	20%	78	4%	14	8%	32	100%	382
Visited a neighborhood park or City park	15%	58	23%	88	26%	103	19%	74	17%	67	100%	389
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	66%	254	22%	84	10%	39	1%	6	1%	3	100%	385
Visited the City of Lexington Web site (at www.ci.lexington.va.us)	51%	197	25%	97	19%	71	3%	11	2%	8	100%	384
Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home	32%	125	14%	53	15%	57	15%	58	24%	92	100%	385
Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Lexington	35%	136	23%	89	19%	73	9%	36	13%	50	100%	384
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Lexington	34%	129	18%	70	13%	51	8%	31	26%	101	100%	382
Participated in a club or civic group in Lexington	54%	210	18%	68	12%	45	6%	23	10%	40	100%	388
Provided help to a friend or neighbor	5%	20	14%	54	45%	175	18%	70	19%	73	100%	391

Question 10: Neighborliness		
About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?	Percent of respondents	Count
Just about everyday	26%	102
Several times a week	30%	119
Several times a month	21%	84
Once a month	6%	26
Several times a year	10%	40
Once a year or less	3%	13
Never	3%	12
Total	100%	396

Question 11: Service Quality												
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Lexington:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Police services	25%	97	51%	198	11%	42	5%	19	8%	33	100%	388
Fire services	30%	116	45%	174	5%	18	0%	0	21%	83	100%	391
Ambulance or emergency medical services	28%	108	41%	160	7%	27	3%	10	22%	85	100%	391
Crime prevention	20%	77	46%	178	12%	47	1%	5	20%	79	100%	386
Fire prevention and education	14%	55	34%	132	11%	44	2%	7	38%	145	100%	384
Municipal courts	9%	33	32%	123	11%	43	5%	19	43%	164	100%	382
Traffic enforcement	20%	77	45%	172	18%	70	7%	28	10%	39	100%	386
Street repair	16%	62	53%	203	22%	85	6%	25	3%	12	100%	386
Street cleaning	27%	103	52%	201	14%	54	2%	10	5%	19	100%	387
Street lighting	23%	88	54%	206	19%	72	4%	15	1%	4	100%	384
Snow removal	28%	108	50%	194	13%	52	2%	6	6%	24	100%	384
Sidewalk maintenance	15%	58	51%	196	22%	84	6%	23	6%	23	100%	384
Traffic signal timing	15%	59	48%	182	26%	98	8%	32	3%	11	100%	382
Garbage collection	49%	190	36%	139	6%	21	3%	13	5%	21	100%	385
Recycling	13%	50	27%	103	17%	64	25%	96	18%	69	100%	382
Yard waste pick-up	37%	142	36%	139	12%	45	4%	15	12%	46	100%	386
Storm drainage	17%	64	51%	196	16%	62	3%	11	14%	53	100%	386
Drinking water	20%	79	45%	173	24%	91	7%	27	5%	18	100%	388
Sewer services	21%	80	55%	210	14%	53	2%	8	8%	31	100%	382
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	23%	89	58%	223	14%	52	0%	1	5%	17	100%	382
City parks	30%	114	50%	192	13%	51	3%	12	4%	17	100%	386
Recreation programs or classes	10%	40	33%	128	17%	67	7%	28	31%	120	100%	382
Land use, planning and zoning	5%	20	28%	108	22%	83	13%	49	32%	122	100%	382
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	8%	32	33%	124	22%	85	9%	36	27%	104	100%	381
Animal control	11%	41	41%	157	18%	69	4%	14	26%	100	100%	382
Economic development	4%	15	22%	84	32%	122	16%	61	26%	99	100%	382

Question 11: Service Quality												
Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Lexington:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Health services	9%	35	41%	158	27%	105	5%	19	18%	69	100%	386
Services to seniors	9%	33	25%	95	16%	61	9%	34	41%	158	100%	381
Services to youth	6%	24	25%	93	20%	76	14%	52	35%	131	100%	377
Services to low-income people	4%	17	19%	72	20%	75	13%	49	44%	166	100%	380
Public library services	32%	121	42%	161	8%	31	1%	6	17%	64	100%	383
Public information services	9%	34	40%	152	18%	69	3%	13	30%	114	100%	383
Public schools	19%	71	41%	155	13%	48	3%	11	24%	89	100%	375
Cable television	11%	42	37%	138	27%	100	11%	40	15%	57	100%	377
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	4%	17	22%	82	19%	73	8%	30	47%	177	100%	378
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	9%	33	37%	138	24%	90	9%	33	22%	82	100%	376

Question 12: Government Services Overall												
Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
The City of Lexington	22%	85	52%	201	14%	55	4%	14	8%	30	100%	385
The Federal Government	5%	18	29%	111	34%	129	13%	50	20%	75	100%	383
The State Government	5%	19	39%	148	30%	114	7%	27	20%	76	100%	384

Question 13: Contact with City Employees		
Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of the City of Lexington within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	32%	125
Yes	68%	263
Total	100%	388

Question 14: City Employees												
What was your impression of the employee(s) of the City of Lexington in your most recent contact?	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
Knowledge	34%	94	45%	123	15%	42	4%	11	2%	5	100%	275
Responsiveness	39%	106	43%	119	10%	27	7%	20	1%	3	100%	275
Courtesy	44%	122	35%	98	12%	34	8%	22	0%	1	100%	277
Overall impression	39%	106	42%	115	11%	31	7%	20	1%	2	100%	274

Question 15: Government Performance												
Please rate the following categories of Lexington government performance:	Excellent		Good		Fair		Poor		Don't know		Total	
The value of services for the taxes paid to Lexington	13%	52	49%	192	18%	71	7%	26	13%	49	100%	390
The overall direction that Lexington is taking	7%	27	47%	181	26%	100	10%	38	11%	43	100%	389
The job Lexington government does at welcoming citizen involvement	5%	21	40%	153	23%	87	10%	41	22%	85	100%	386
The job Lexington government does at listening to citizens	6%	22	33%	127	23%	89	15%	57	24%	94	100%	390

Question 16: Recommendation and Longevity												
Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:	Very likely		Somewhat likely		Somewhat unlikely		Very unlikely		Don't know		Total	
Recommend living in Lexington to someone who asks	48%	190	32%	124	12%	49	6%	22	2%	8	100%	392
Remain in Lexington for the next five years	57%	222	15%	58	7%	26	18%	71	3%	13	100%	391

Question 17: Impact of the Economy		
What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:	Percent of respondents	Count
Very positive	4%	16
Somewhat positive	7%	28
Neutral	30%	117
Somewhat negative	44%	172
Very negative	15%	58
Total	100%	392

Question 18a: Policy Question 1		
To what degree would you support or oppose using tax dollars to create a whitewater recreation facility at Jordan's Point Park?	Percent of respondents	Count
Strongly support	19%	74
Somewhat support	31%	122
Somewhat oppose	11%	45
Strongly oppose	24%	97
Don't know	15%	60
Total	100%	398

Question 18b: Policy Question 2		
To what degree would you support or oppose additional local taxes to be used for downtown promotion?	Percent of respondents	Count
Strongly support	14%	56
Somewhat support	38%	150
Somewhat oppose	22%	89
Strongly oppose	15%	61
Don't know	11%	42
Total	100%	399

Question D1: Employment Status		
Are you currently employed for pay?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	32%	126
Yes, full-time	56%	219
Yes, part-time	12%	46
Total	100%	390

Question D2: Mode of Transportation Used for Commute	
During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below?	Percent of days mode used
Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) by myself	58%
Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) with other children or adults	12%
Bus, rail, subway or other public transportation	0%
Bicycle	3%
Bicycle	3%
Work at home	8%
Other	1%

Question D3: Length of Residency		
How many years have you lived in Lexington?	Percent of respondents	Count
Less than 2 years	15%	60
2 to 5 years	22%	88
6 to 10 years	14%	57
11 to 20 years	12%	47
More than 20 years	36%	143
Total	100%	396

Question D4: Housing Unit Type		
Which best describes the building you live in?	Percent of respondents	Count
One family house detached from any other houses	65%	257
House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)	9%	37
Building with two or more apartments or condominiums	23%	92
Mobile home	1%	3
Other	1%	4
Total	100%	392

Question D5: Housing Tenure (Rent/Own)		
Is this house, apartment or mobile home...	Percent of respondents	Count
Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment	44%	172
Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear	56%	215
Total	100%	386

Question D6: Monthly Housing Cost		
About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?	Percent of respondents	Count
Less than \$300 per month	10%	37
\$300 to \$599 per month	32%	120
\$600 to \$999 per month	29%	108
\$1,000 to \$1,499 per month	14%	54
\$1,500 to \$2,499 per month	11%	43
\$2,500 or more per month	4%	15
Total	100%	377

Question D7: Presence of Children in Household		
Do any children 17 or under live in your household?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	73%	289
Yes	27%	106
Total	100%	395

Question D8: Presence of Older Adults in Household		
Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	68%	269
Yes	32%	126
Total	100%	395

Question D9: Household Income		
How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)	Percent of respondents	Count
Less than \$24,999	26%	95
\$25,000 to \$49,999	28%	104
\$50,000 to \$99,999	29%	110
\$100,000 to \$149,000	10%	38
\$150,000 or more	7%	27
Total	100%	374

Question D10: Ethnicity		
Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?	Percent of respondents	Count
No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	97%	373
Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino	3%	10
Total	100%	382

Question D11: Race		
What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race(s) you consider yourself to be.)	Percent of respondents	Count
American Indian or Alaskan Native	3%	12
Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander	2%	7
Black or African American	6%	24
White	92%	363
Other	3%	12
Total may exceed 100% as respondents could select more than one option		

Question D12: Age		
In which category is your age?	Percent of respondents	Count
18 to 24 years	9%	35
25 to 34 years	23%	93
35 to 44 years	8%	31
45 to 54 years	20%	78
55 to 64 years	15%	59
65 to 74 years	11%	44
75 years or older	14%	56
Total	100%	395

Question D13: Gender		
What is your sex?	Percent of respondents	Count
Female	57%	223
Male	43%	169
Total	100%	392

Question D14: Registered to Vote		
Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	16%	63
Yes	80%	317
Ineligible to vote	2%	9
Don't know	2%	6
Total	100%	395

Question D15: Voted in Last General Election		
Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?	Percent of respondents	Count
No	25%	100
Yes	71%	279
Ineligible to vote	4%	14
Don't know	1%	2
Total	100%	396

APPENDIX B: SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The National Citizen Survey™ was developed to provide local jurisdictions an accurate, affordable and easy way to assess and interpret resident opinion about important community issues. While standardization of question wording and survey methods provide the rigor to assure valid results, each jurisdiction has enough flexibility to construct a customized version of The National Citizen Survey™ that asks residents about key local services and important local issues.

Results offer insight into residents' perspectives about local government performance and as such provide important benchmarks for jurisdictions working on performance measurement. The National Citizen Survey™ is designed to help with budget, land use and strategic planning as well as to communicate with local residents. The National Citizen Survey™ permits questions to test support for local policies and answers to its questions also speak to community trust and involvement in community-building activities as well as to resident demographic characteristics.

SURVEY VALIDITY

The question of survey validity has two parts: 1) how can a jurisdiction be confident that the results from those who completed the questionnaire are representative of the results that would have been obtained had the survey been administered to the entire population? and 2) how closely do the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do?

To answer the first question, the best survey research practices were used for the resources spent to ensure that the results from the survey respondents reflect the opinions of residents in the entire jurisdiction. These practices include:

- Using a mail-out/mail-back methodology, which typically gets a higher response rate than phone for the same dollars spent. A higher response rate lessens the worry that those who did not respond are different than those who did respond.
- Selecting households at random within the jurisdiction to receive the survey. A random selection ensures that the households selected to receive the survey are similar to the entire population. A non-random sample may only include households from one geographic area, or from households of only one type.
- Over-sampling multi-family housing units to improve response from hard-to-reach, lower income, or younger apartment dwellers.
- Selecting the respondent within the household using an unbiased sampling procedure; in this case, the "birthday method." The cover letter included an instruction requesting that the respondent in the household be the adult (18 years old or older) who most recently had a birthday, irrespective of year of birth.
- Contacting potential respondents three times to encourage response from people who may have different opinions or habits than those who would respond with only a single prompt.
- Soliciting response on jurisdiction letterhead signed by the highest ranking elected official or staff member, thus appealing to the recipients' sense of civic responsibility.
- Providing a self-addressed, postage-paid return envelope.
- Offering the survey in Spanish when appropriate and requested by City officials.
- Using the most recent available information about the characteristics of jurisdiction residents to weight the data to reflect the demographics of the population.

The answer to the second question about how closely the perspectives recorded on the survey reflect what residents really believe or do is more complex. Resident responses to surveys are influenced by a variety of factors. For questions about service quality, residents' expectations for

service quality play a role as well as the “objective” quality of the service provided, the way the resident perceives the entire community (that is, the context in which the service is provided), the scale on which the resident is asked to record his or her opinion and, of course, the opinion, itself, that a resident holds about the service. Similarly a resident’s report of certain behaviors is colored by what he or she believes is the socially desirable response (e.g., reporting tolerant behaviors toward “oppressed groups,” likelihood of voting a tax increase for services to poor people, use of alternative modes of travel to work besides the single occupancy vehicle), his or her memory of the actual behavior (if it is not a question speculating about future actions, like a vote), his or her confidence that he or she can be honest without suffering any negative consequences (thus the need for anonymity) as well as the actual behavior itself.

How closely survey results come to recording the way a person really feels or behaves often is measured by the coincidence of reported behavior with observed current behavior (e.g., driving habits), reported intentions to behave with observed future behavior (e.g., voting choices) or reported opinions about current community quality with objective characteristics of the community (e.g., feelings of safety correlated with rates of crime). There is a body of scientific literature that has investigated the relationship between reported behaviors and actual behaviors. Well-conducted surveys, by and large, do capture true respondent behaviors or intentions to act with great accuracy. Predictions of voting outcomes tend to be quite accurate using survey research, as do reported behaviors that are not about highly sensitive issues (e.g., family abuse or other illegal or morally sanctioned activities). For self-reports about highly sensitive issues, statistical adjustments can be made to correct for the respondents’ tendency to report what they think the “correct” response should be.

Research on the correlation of resident opinion about service quality and “objective” ratings of service quality tend to be ambiguous, some showing stronger relationships than others. NRC’s own research has demonstrated that residents who report the lowest ratings of street repair live in communities with objectively worse street conditions than those who report high ratings of street repair (based on road quality, delay in street repair, number of road repair employees). Similarly, the lowest rated fire services appear to be “objectively” worse than the highest rated fire services (expenditures per capita, response time, “professional” status of firefighters, breadth of services and training provided). Whether some research confirms or disconfirms that relationship between what residents think about a community and what can be seen “objectively” in a community, NRC has argued that resident opinion is a perspective that cannot be ignored by government administrators. NRC principals have written, “If you collect trash three times a day but residents think that your trash haul is lousy, you still have a problem.”

SURVEY SAMPLING

“Sampling” refers to the method by which survey recipients were chosen. All households within the City of Lexington were eligible to participate in the survey; 1,200 were selected to receive the survey. These 1,200 households were randomly selected from a comprehensive list of all housing units within the City of Lexington boundaries. The basis of the list of all housing units was a United States Postal Service listing of housing units within zip codes. Since some of the zip codes that serve the City of Lexington households may also serve addresses that lie outside of the jurisdiction, the exact geographic location of each housing unit was compared to jurisdiction boundaries, using the most current municipal boundary file (updated on a quarterly basis), and addresses located outside of the City of Lexington boundaries were removed from consideration.

To choose the 1,200 survey recipients, a systematic sampling method was applied to the list of households known to be within the City of Lexington. Systematic sampling is a procedure whereby a complete list of all possible items is culled, selecting every Nth one until the appropriate amount of items is selected. Multi-family housing units were over sampled as residents of this type of housing typically respond at lower rates to surveys than do those in single-family housing units.

An individual within each household was selected using the birthday method. The birthday method selects a person within the household by asking the “person whose birthday has most recently passed” to complete the questionnaire. The underlying assumption in this method is that day of birth has no relationship to the way people respond to surveys. This instruction was contained in the cover letter accompanying the questionnaire.

SURVEY ADMINISTRATION

Selected households received three mailings, one week apart, beginning June 13, 2008. The first mailing was a prenotification postcard announcing the upcoming survey. The next mailing contained a letter from the mayor inviting the household to participate, a questionnaire and a postage-paid return envelope. The final mailing contained a reminder letter, another survey and a postage-paid return envelope. The second cover letter asked those who had not completed the survey to do so and those who have already done so to refrain from turning in another survey. Completed surveys were collected over the following five weeks.

SURVEY RESPONSE RATE AND CONFIDENCE INTERVALS

Of the surveys mailed 227 were returned because the housing unit was vacant or the postal service was unable to deliver the survey as addressed. Of the 973 households receiving the survey mailings, 400 completed the survey, providing a response rate of 41%. In general, response rates obtained on local government resident surveys range from 25% to 40%.

In theory, in 95 cases out of 100, the results based on the number of responses obtained will differ by no more than five percentage points in either direction from what would have been obtained had responses been collected from all City of Lexington adults. This difference from the presumed population finding is referred to as the sampling error (or the “margin of error” or 95% confidence interval”). For subgroups of responses, the margin of sampling error is larger. In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting any survey of the public may introduce other sources of error. For example, the failure of some of the selected adults to participate in the sample or the difficulty of including all sectors of the population, such as residents of some institutions or group residences, may lead to somewhat different results.

SURVEY PROCESSING (DATA ENTRY)

Completed surveys received by NRC were assigned a unique identification number. Additionally, each survey was reviewed and “cleaned” as necessary. For example, a question may have asked a respondent to pick two items out of a list of five, but the respondent checked three; NRC staff would choose randomly two of the three selected items to be coded in the dataset.

Once all surveys were assigned a unique identification number, they were entered into an electronic dataset. This dataset was subject to a data entry protocol of “key and verify,” in which survey data were entered twice into an electronic dataset and then compared. Discrepancies were evaluated against the original survey form and corrected. Range checks as well as other forms of quality control were also performed.

SURVEY DATA WEIGHTING

The demographic characteristics of the survey sample were compared to those found in the 2000 Census estimates for households. Sample results were weighted using the population norms to reflect the appropriate percent of those residents. Other discrepancies between the whole population and the sample were also aided by the weighting due to the intercorrelation of many socioeconomic characteristics.

The variables used for weighting were housing tenure and gender/age. This decision was based on:

- The disparity between the survey respondent characteristics and the population norms for these variables
- The saliency of these variables in detecting differences of opinion among subgroups

The primary objective of weighting survey data is to make the survey sample reflective of the larger population of the community. This is done by: 1) reviewing the sample demographics and comparing them to the population norms from the most recent Census or other sources and 2) comparing the responses to different questions for demographic subgroups. The demographic characteristics that are least similar to the Census and yield the most different results are the best candidates for data weighting. A third criterion sometimes used is the importance that the community places on a specific variable. For example, if a jurisdiction feels that accurate race representation is key to staff and public acceptance of the study results, additional consideration will be given in the weighting process to adjusting the race variable.

A special software program using mathematical algorithms is used to calculate the appropriate weights. A limitation of data weighting is that only 2-3 demographic variables can be adjusted in a single study. Several different weighting “schemes” are tested to ensure the best fit for the data.

The process actually begins at the point of sampling. Knowing that residents in single family dwellings are more likely to respond to a mail survey, NRC oversamples residents of multi-family dwellings to ensure their proper representation in the sample data. Rather than giving all residents an equal chance of receiving the survey, this is systematic, stratified sampling, which gives each resident of the jurisdiction a known chance of receiving the survey (and apartment dwellers, for example, a greater chance than single family home dwellers). As a consequence, results must be weighted to recapture the proper representation of apartment dwellers.

The results of the weighting scheme are presented in the table on the following page.

Weighting Scheme for Lexington, VA 2008 Citizen Survey				
Respondent Characteristics		Population Norm ¹	Unweighted Survey Data	Weighted Survey Data
Tenure				
	Rent Home	45%	32%	44%
	Own Home	55%	68%	56%
Type of Housing Unit				
	Single-Family Detached	68%	73%	66%
	Attached	32%	27%	34%
Ethnicity				
	Non-Hispanic	98%	98%	98%
	Hispanic	2%	2%	2%
Race				
	White/Caucasian	86%	89%	88%
	Non-White	14%	11%	12%
Gender				
	Female	56%	61%	57%
	Male	44%	39%	43%
Age				
	18-34	33%	13%	32%
	35-54	28%	22%	28%
	55 +	39%	64%	40%
Gender and Age				
	Females 18-34	18%	8%	18%
	Females 35-54	15%	14%	15%
	Females 55 +	23%	40%	24%
	Males 18-34	15%	6%	15%
	Males 35-54	13%	8%	13%
	Males 55 +	16%	25%	16%

¹ Source: 2000 Census

SURVEY DATA ANALYSIS AND REPORTING

The survey dataset was analyzed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Frequency distributions were presented in the body of the report.

Use of the “Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor” Response Scale

The scale on which respondents are asked to record their opinions about service and community quality is “excellent,” “good,” “fair” or “poor” (EGFP). This scale has important advantages over other scale possibilities (very good to very bad; very satisfied to very dissatisfied; strongly agree to strongly disagree, as examples). EGFP is used by the plurality of jurisdictions conducting citizen surveys across the U.S. The advantage of familiarity was one that NRC did not want to dismiss when crafting The National Citizen Survey™ questionnaire, because elected officials, staff and residents already are acquainted with opinion surveys measured this way. EGFP also has the advantage of offering three positive options, rather than only two, over which a resident can offer an opinion. While symmetrical scales often are the right choice in other measurement tasks, NRC has found that ratings of almost every local government service in almost every jurisdiction tend, on average, to be positive (that is, above the scale midpoint). Therefore, to permit finer distinctions among positively rated services, EGFP offers three options across which to spread those ratings. EGFP is more neutral because it requires no positive statement of service quality to judge (as agree-disagree scales require) and, finally, EGFP intends to measure absolute quality of service delivery or community quality (unlike satisfaction scales which ignore residents’ perceptions of quality in favor of their report on the acceptability of the level of service offered).

“Don’t Know” Responses

On many of the questions in the survey respondents may answer “don’t know.” The proportion of respondents giving this reply is shown in the full set of responses included in Appendix A. However, these responses have been removed from the analyses presented in the body of the report. In other words, the tables and graphs display the responses from respondents who had an opinion about a specific item.

Benchmark Comparisons

NRC has been leading the strategic use of surveys for local governments since 1991, when the principals of the company wrote the first edition of what became the classic text on citizen surveying. In *Citizen Surveys: how to do them, how to use them, what they mean*, published by ICMA, not only were the principles for quality survey methods articulated, but both the idea of benchmark data for citizen opinion and the method for gathering benchmark data were pioneered. The argument for benchmarks was called “In Search of Standards.” “What has been missing from a local government’s analysis of its survey results is the context that school administrators can supply when they tell parents how an 80 percent score on the social studies test compares to test results from other school systems...”

NRC’s database of comparative resident opinion is comprised of resident perspectives gathered in citizen surveys from approximately 500 jurisdictions whose residents evaluated local government services. Conducted with typically no fewer than 400 residents in each jurisdiction, opinions are intended to represent over 30 million Americans. NRC has innovated a method for quantitatively integrating the results of surveys that conducted by NRC with those that others have conducted. The integration methods have been thoroughly described not only in the Citizen Surveys book, but also in *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*. Scholars who specialize in the analysis of citizen surveys regularly have relied on this work (e.g., Kelly, J. &

Swindell, D. (2002). Service quality variation across urban space: First steps towards a model of citizen satisfaction. *Journal of Urban Affairs*, 24, 271-288.; Van Ryzin, G., Muzzio, D., Immerwahr, S., Gulick, L. & Martinez, E. (2004). Drivers and consequences of citizen satisfaction: An application of the American Customer Satisfaction Index Model to New York City, *Public Administration Review*, 64, 331- 341). The method described in those publications is refined regularly and statistically tested on a growing number of citizen surveys in NRC's proprietary databases. NRC's work on calculating national benchmarks for resident opinions about service delivery and quality of life won the Samuel C. May award for research excellence from the Western Governmental Research Association.

The Role of Comparisons

Benchmark comparisons are used for performance measurement. Jurisdictions use the comparative information to help interpret their own citizen survey results, to create or revise community plans, to evaluate the success of policy or budget decisions, to measure local government performance. Taking the pulse of the community has little meaning without knowing what pulse rate is too high and what is too low. When surveys of service satisfaction turn up "good" citizen evaluations, jurisdictions need to know how others rate their services to understand if "good" is good enough. Furthermore, in the absence of national or peer community comparisons, a jurisdiction is left with comparing its fire protection rating to its street maintenance rating. That comparison is unfair. Streets always lose to fire. More important and harder questions need to be asked; for example, how do residents' ratings of fire service compare to opinions about fire service in other communities?

A police department that provides the fastest and most efficient service—one that closes most of its cases, solves most of its crimes and keeps the crime rate low—still has a problem to fix if the residents in the community it intends to protect believe services are not very good compared to ratings given by residents to their own objectively "worse" departments. The benchmark data can help that police department – or any department – to understand how well citizens think it is doing. Without the comparative data, it would be like bowling in a tournament without knowing what the other teams are scoring. NRC recommends that citizen opinion be used in conjunction with other sources of data about budget, personnel and politics to help managers know how to respond to comparative results.

Jurisdictions in the benchmark database are distributed geographically across the country and range from small to large in population size. Most commonly, comparisons are made to the entire database. Comparisons may also be made to subsets of jurisdictions (for example, within a given region or population category). Despite the differences in jurisdiction characteristics, all are in the business of providing local government services to residents. Though individual jurisdiction circumstances, resources and practices vary, the objective in every community is to provide services that are so timely, tailored and effective that residents conclude the services are of the highest quality. High ratings in any jurisdiction, like SAT scores in any teen household, bring pride and a sense of accomplishment.

Comparison of Lexington to the Benchmark Database

The City of Lexington chose to have comparisons made to the entire database. A benchmark comparison (the average rating from all the comparison jurisdictions where a similar question was asked) has been provided when a similar question on the City of Lexington Survey was included in NRC's database and there were at least five jurisdictions in which the question was asked. For most

questions compared to the entire dataset, there were more than 100 jurisdictions included in the benchmark comparison.

Where comparisons are available, Lexington results are noted as being “above” the benchmark, “below” the benchmark or “similar to” the benchmark. This evaluation of “above,” “below” or “similar to” comes from a statistical comparison of Lexington's rating to the benchmark (the rating from all the comparison jurisdictions where a similar question was asked).

APPENDIX C: SURVEY MATERIALS

The following pages contain copies of the survey materials sent to randomly selected households within the City of Lexington.



The City of Lexington
Office of the City Manager
P.O. Box 922
Lexington, Virginia 24450

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



The City of Lexington
Office of the City Manager
P.O. Box 922
Lexington, Virginia 24450

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



The City of Lexington
Office of the City Manager
P.O. Box 922
Lexington, Virginia 24450

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94



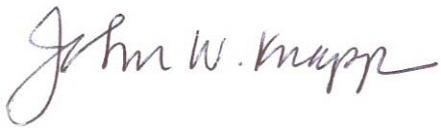
The City of Lexington
Office of the City Manager
P.O. Box 922
Lexington, Virginia 24450

Presorted
First Class Mail
US Postage
PAID
Boulder, CO
Permit NO. 94

Dear Lexington Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous citizen survey about the City of Lexington. You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important project!

Sincerely,

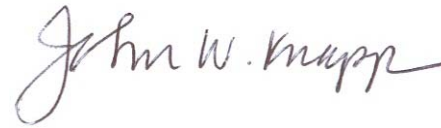
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John W. Knapp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

John W. Knapp
Mayor

Dear Lexington Resident,

Your household has been selected at random to participate in an anonymous citizen survey about the City of Lexington. You will receive a copy of the survey next week in the mail with instructions for completing and returning it. Thank you in advance for helping us with this important project!

Sincerely,

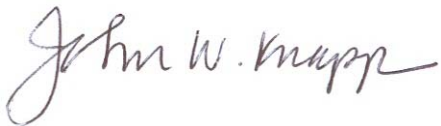
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John W. Knapp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

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Mayor

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Sincerely,

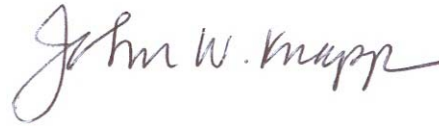
A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John W. Knapp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

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Mayor

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "John W. Knapp". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

John W. Knapp
Mayor



Office of the City Manager

June 2008

Dear Lexington Resident:

The City of Lexington wants to know what you think about our community and municipal government. You have been randomly selected to participate in Lexington's 2008 Citizen Survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Citizen Survey. Your feedback will help the City set benchmarks for tracking the quality of services provided to residents. Your answers will help the City Council make decisions that affect our community. You should find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of Lexington residents, the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. Year of birth of the adult does not matter.

Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

Your participation in this survey is very important – especially since your household is one of only a small number of households being surveyed. If you have any questions about the Citizen Survey please call (540) 462-3700.

Please help us shape the future of Lexington. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

John W. Knapp
Mayor



Office of the City Manager

June 2008

Dear Lexington Resident:

About one week ago, you should have received a copy of the enclosed survey. **If you completed it and sent it back, we thank you for your time and ask you to discard this survey. Please do not respond twice.** If you have not had a chance to complete the survey, we would appreciate your response. The City of Lexington wants to know what you think about our community and municipal government. You have been randomly selected to participate in the City of Lexington's Citizen Survey.

Please take a few minutes to fill out the enclosed Citizen Survey. Your feedback will help the City set benchmarks for tracking the quality of services provided to residents. Your answers will help the City Council make decisions that affect our community. You should find the questions interesting and we will definitely find your answers useful. Please participate!

To get a representative sample of Lexington residents, the adult (anyone 18 years or older) in your household who most recently had a birthday should complete this survey. Year of birth of the adult does not matter.

Please have the appropriate member of the household spend a few minutes to answer all the questions and return the survey in the enclosed postage-paid envelope. **Your responses will remain completely anonymous.**

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Please help us shape the future of Lexington. Thank you for your time and participation.

Sincerely,

John W. Knapp
Mayor

The City of Lexington 2008 Citizen Survey

Please complete this questionnaire if you are the adult (age 18 or older) in the household who most recently had a birthday. The adult's year of birth does not matter. Please select the response (by circling the number or checking the box) that most closely represents your opinion for each question. Your responses are anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

1. Please rate each of the following aspects of quality of life in Lexington:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Lexington as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	5
Your neighborhood as a place to live.....	1	2	3	4	5
Lexington as a place to raise children.....	1	2	3	4	5
Lexington as a place to work.....	1	2	3	4	5
Lexington as a place to retire.....	1	2	3	4	5
The overall quality of life in Lexington	1	2	3	4	5

2. Please rate each of the following characteristics as they relate to Lexington as a whole:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Sense of community.....	1	2	3	4	5
Openness and acceptance of the community toward people of diverse backgrounds	1	2	3	4	5
Overall appearance of Lexington	1	2	3	4	5
Cleanliness of Lexington	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of new development in Lexington.....	1	2	3	4	5
Variety of housing options	1	2	3	4	5
Overall quality of business and service establishments in Lexington	1	2	3	4	5
Shopping opportunities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to attend cultural activities.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Educational opportunities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in social events and activities	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in religious or spiritual events and activities ..	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to volunteer.....	1	2	3	4	5
Opportunities to participate in community matters.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of car travel in Lexington.....	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of bicycle travel in Lexington	1	2	3	4	5
Ease of walking in Lexington.....	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of paths and walking trails	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic flow on major streets.....	1	2	3	4	5
Amount of public parking	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality housing	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality child care	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality health care	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of affordable quality food	1	2	3	4	5
Availability of preventive health services	1	2	3	4	5
Air quality	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of overall natural environment in Lexington	1	2	3	4	5
Overall image or reputation of Lexington.....	1	2	3	4	5

3. Please rate the speed of growth in the following categories in Lexington over the past 2 years:

	<i>Much too slow</i>	<i>Somewhat too slow</i>	<i>Right amount</i>	<i>Somewhat too fast</i>	<i>Much too fast</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Population growth	1	2	3	4	5	6
Retail growth (stores, restaurants, etc.).....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Jobs growth.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

4. To what degree, if at all, are run down buildings, weed lots or junk vehicles a problem in Lexington?

- ☐ Not a problem ☐ Minor problem ☐ Moderate problem ☐ Major problem ☐ Don't know

5. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel from the following in Lexington:

	<i>Very safe</i>	<i>Somewhat safe</i>	<i>Neither safe nor unsafe</i>	<i>Somewhat unsafe</i>	<i>Very unsafe</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Violent crime (e.g., rape, assault, robbery)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Property crimes (e.g., burglary, theft).....	1	2	3	4	5	6
Environmental hazards, including toxic waste.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

6. Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel:

	<i>Very safe</i>	<i>Somewhat safe</i>	<i>Neither safe nor unsafe</i>	<i>Somewhat unsafe</i>	<i>Very unsafe</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
In your neighborhood during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In your neighborhood after dark.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Lexington's downtown area during the day.....	1	2	3	4	5	6
In Lexington's downtown area after dark.....	1	2	3	4	5	6

7. During the past twelve months, were you or anyone in your household the victim of any crime?

- ☐ No → Go to Question 9 ☐ Yes → Go to Question 8 ☐ Don't know → Go to Question 9

8. If yes, was this crime (these crimes) reported to the police?

- ☐ No ☐ Yes ☐ Don't know

9. In the last 12 months, about how many times, if ever, have you or other household members participated in the following activities in Lexington?

	<i>Never</i>	<i>Once or twice</i>	<i>3 to 12 times</i>	<i>13 to 26 times</i>	<i>More than 26 times</i>
Used Lexington public libraries or their services	1	2	3	4	5
Participated in a recreation program or activity	1	2	3	4	5
Visited a neighborhood park or City park.....	1	2	3	4	5
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	1	2	3	4	5
Visited the City of Lexington Web site (at www.ci.lexington.va.us)	1	2	3	4	5
Recycled used paper, cans or bottles from your home.....	1	2	3	4	5
Volunteered your time to some group or activity in Lexington	1	2	3	4	5
Participated in religious or spiritual activities in Lexington	1	2	3	4	5
Participated in a club or civic group in Lexington	1	2	3	4	5
Provided help to a friend or neighbor	1	2	3	4	5

10. About how often, if at all, do you talk to or visit with your immediate neighbors (people who live in the 10 or 20 households that are closest to you)?

- ☐ Just about every day
☐ Several times a week
☐ Several times a month
☐ Once a month
☐ Several times a year
☐ Once a year or less
☐ Never

The City of Lexington 2008 Citizen Survey

11. Please rate the quality of each of the following services in Lexington:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Police services	1	2	3	4	5
Fire services	1	2	3	4	5
Ambulance or emergency medical services.....	1	2	3	4	5
Crime prevention	1	2	3	4	5
Fire prevention and education	1	2	3	4	5
Municipal courts	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic enforcement.....	1	2	3	4	5
Street repair	1	2	3	4	5
Street cleaning	1	2	3	4	5
Street lighting.....	1	2	3	4	5
Snow removal.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sidewalk maintenance	1	2	3	4	5
Traffic signal timing	1	2	3	4	5
Garbage collection.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recycling.....	1	2	3	4	5
Yard waste pick-up	1	2	3	4	5
Storm drainage.....	1	2	3	4	5
Drinking water.....	1	2	3	4	5
Sewer services	1	2	3	4	5
Power (electric and/or gas) utility	1	2	3	4	5
City parks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Recreation programs or classes	1	2	3	4	5
Land use, planning and zoning	1	2	3	4	5
Code enforcement (weeds, abandoned buildings, etc)	1	2	3	4	5
Animal control	1	2	3	4	5
Economic development	1	2	3	4	5
Health services	1	2	3	4	5
Services to seniors.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services to youth.....	1	2	3	4	5
Services to low-income people	1	2	3	4	5
Public library services	1	2	3	4	5
Public information services	1	2	3	4	5
Public schools.....	1	2	3	4	5
Cable television	1	2	3	4	5
Emergency preparedness (services that prepare the community for natural disasters or other emergency situations)	1	2	3	4	5
Preservation of natural areas such as open space, farmlands and greenbelts	1	2	3	4	5

12. Overall, how would you rate the quality of the services provided by each of the following?

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
The City of Lexington.....	1	2	3	4	5
The Federal Government	1	2	3	4	5
The State Government	1	2	3	4	5

13. Have you had any in-person or phone contact with an employee of the City of Lexington within the last 12 months (including police, receptionists, planners or any others)?

☐ No → Go to Question 15

☐ Yes → Go to Question 14

14. What was your impression of the employee(s) of the City of Lexington in your most recent contact? (Rate each characteristic below.)

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Knowledge.....	1	2	3	4	5
Responsiveness.....	1	2	3	4	5
Courtesy.....	1	2	3	4	5
Overall impression.....	1	2	3	4	5

15. Please rate the following categories of Lexington government performance:

	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Fair</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
The value of services for the taxes paid to Lexington.....	1	2	3	4	5
The overall direction that Lexington is taking.....	1	2	3	4	5
The job Lexington government does at welcoming citizen involvement...	1	2	3	4	5
The job Lexington government does at listening to citizens.....	1	2	3	4	5

16. Please indicate how likely or unlikely you are to do each of the following:

	<i>Very likely</i>	<i>Somewhat likely</i>	<i>Somewhat unlikely</i>	<i>Very unlikely</i>	<i>Don't know</i>
Recommend living in Lexington to someone who asks.....	1	2	3	4	5
Remain in Lexington for the next five years.....	1	2	3	4	5

17. What impact, if any, do you think the economy will have on your family income in the next 6 months? Do you think the impact will be:

☐ Very positive

☐ Somewhat positive

☐ Neutral

☐ Somewhat negative

☐ Very negative

18. Please check the response that comes closest to your opinion for each of the following questions:

a. To what degree would you support or oppose using tax dollars to create a whitewater recreation facility at Jordan's Point Park?

☐ Strongly support

☐ Somewhat support

☐ Somewhat oppose

☐ Strongly oppose

☐ Don't know

b. To what degree would you support or oppose additional local taxes to be used for downtown promotion?

☐ Strongly support

☐ Somewhat support

☐ Somewhat oppose

☐ Strongly oppose

☐ Don't know

The City of Lexington 2008 Citizen Survey

Our last questions are about you and your household. Again, all of your responses to this survey are completely anonymous and will be reported in group form only.

D1. Are you currently employed for pay?

- ☐ No → Go to Question D3
- ☐ Yes, full time → Go to Question D2
- ☐ Yes, part time → Go to Question D2

D2. During a typical week, how many days do you commute to work (for the longest distance of your commute) in each of the ways listed below? (Enter the total number of days, using whole numbers.)

Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) by myself days

Motorized vehicle (e.g., car, truck, van, motorcycle, etc...) with other children or adults days

Bus, Rail, Subway or other public transportation days

Walk days

Bicycle days

Work at home days

Other days

D3. How many years have you lived in Lexington?

- ☐ Less than 2 years ☐ 11-20 years
- ☐ 2-5 years ☐ More than 20 years
- ☐ 6-10 years

D4. Which best describes the building you live in?

- ☐ One family house detached from any other houses
- ☐ House attached to one or more houses (e.g., a duplex or townhome)
- ☐ Building with two or more apartments or condominiums
- ☐ Mobile home
- ☐ Other

D5. Is this house, apartment or mobile home...

- ☐ Rented for cash or occupied without cash payment?
- ☐ Owned by you or someone in this house with a mortgage or free and clear?

D6. About how much is your monthly housing cost for the place you live (including rent, mortgage payment, property tax, property insurance and homeowners' association (HOA) fees)?

- ☐ Less than \$300 per month
- ☐ \$300 to \$599 per month
- ☐ \$600 to \$999 per month
- ☐ \$1,000 to \$1,499 per month
- ☐ \$1,500 to \$2,499 per month
- ☐ \$2,500 or more per month

D7. Do any children 17 or under live in your household?

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

D8. Are you or any other members of your household aged 65 or older?

- ☐ No ☐ Yes

D9. How much do you anticipate your household's total income before taxes will be for the current year? (Please include in your total income money from all sources for all persons living in your household.)

- ☐ Less than \$24,999
- ☐ \$25,000 to \$49,999
- ☐ \$50,000 to \$99,999
- ☐ \$100,000 to \$149,999
- ☐ \$150,000 or more

Please respond to both question D10 and D11:

D10. Are you Spanish, Hispanic or Latino?

- ☐ No, not Spanish, Hispanic or Latino
- ☐ Yes, I consider myself to be Spanish, Hispanic or Latino

D11. What is your race? (Mark one or more races to indicate what race you consider yourself to be)

- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Asian, Asian Indian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ Black or African American
- ☐ White
- ☐ Other

D12. In which category is your age?

- ☐ 18-24 years ☐ 55-64 years
- ☐ 25-34 years ☐ 65-74 years
- ☐ 35-44 years ☐ 75 years or older
- ☐ 45-54 years

D13. What is your sex?

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male

D14. Are you registered to vote in your jurisdiction?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Ineligible to vote
- ☐ Don't know

D15. Many people don't have time to vote in elections. Did you vote in the last general election?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Yes
- ☐ Ineligible to vote
- ☐ Don't know

**Thank you for completing this survey. Please return the completed survey in the postage paid envelope to:
National Research Center, Inc., 3005 30th St., Boulder, CO 80301**



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